GroupServer Documentation

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groupserver.org

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Contents

1 GroupServer installation **1**
- 1.1 Quick start . . . 1
- 1.2 Requirements . . . 2
- 1.3 Download . . . 2
- 1.4 Set up . . . 2
- 1.5 Run the installer . . . 4
- 1.6 Remove Groupserver . . . 6
- 1.7 History . . . 6
- 1.8 Resources . . . 7

2 Starting and stopping GroupServer **9**
- 2.1 Introduction . . . 9
- 2.2 Trying out GroupServer . . . 9
- 2.3 Running GroupServer . . . 10
- 2.4 Issues, and problems . . . 10

3 Configuring Postfix **13**

4 Configuring a web proxy **15**
- 4.1 Introduction . . . 15
- 4.2 Add a virtual host . . . 15
- 4.3 Change the skin . . . 17

5 Release notes **19**
- 5.1 GroupServer 10.09 — Spaghettieis with a Wafer of Confusion . . . 19
- 5.2 GroupServer 10.10 — Gelato while Viewing the Sights . . . 21
- 5.3 GroupServer 10.11 — Kulfi Craved while Caving . . . 23
- 5.4 GroupServer 10.12 — Lemon Ice in the Cool of the Evening . . . 26
- 5.5 GroupServer 11.01 — Baked Alaska with and Eye on the Soviets . . . 27
- 5.6 GroupServer 11.02 — Tartufo Nibbled in Polite Company . . . 27
- 5.7 GroupServer 11.03 — Pineapple Snow at a Child's Party . . . 28
- 5.8 GroupServer 11.04 — Slushy Followed by a Pounding Headache . . . 29
- 5.9 GroupServer 11.05 — Eskimo Pie with Middle Class Guilt . . . 31
- 5.10 GroupServer 11.06 — Soft Serve from Mr Whippy . . . 33
- 5.11 GroupServer 11.07 — Frozen Yoghurt Accompanied by Carols . . . 35
- 5.12 GroupServer 11.08 — Banana Split Eaten in a Comfortable Silence . . . 38
- 5.13 GroupServer 12.05 — Faloodeh Consumed with an Eye on History . . . 39
- 5.14 GroupServer 12.11 — Absinthe Acquired Arbitrarily . . . 45

5.15 GroupServer 14.03 — Ouzo utilised as an unguent 56
5.16 GroupServer 14.06 — Slivovica shots at sunset 61

6 Indices and tables **65**

CHAPTER 1

GroupServer installation

Authors Michael JasonSmith; Richard Waid; Marek Kuziel; Alice Murphy; Dan Randow

Contact Michael JasonSmith <mpj17@onlinegroups.net>

Date 2014-06-23 (see History)

Organization GroupServer.org

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We wrote this documentation for people with moderate experience in Linux system administration. Installation can be tricky: you have to configure at least email sending, the web interface, and persistent storage. All these systems must work or installation will fail.

If you get stuck, please ask us questions in GroupServer Development. Other more detailed guides would be gratefully accepted.

Note GroupServer is developed on Ubuntu, and is know to run on CentOS. We will gladly accept any modifications you have that will make GroupServer run on more platforms.

1.1 Quick start

1. Install the required packages (see Requirements).
2. Download the latest version of GroupServer from <http://groupserver.org/downloads> and extract the archive (see Download).
3. Create a new hostname for your GroupServer site. Yes, you will need a new one (see Pick a Host Name).
4. Edit `config.cfg` (see Configure GroupServer).
5. Enable prepared transaction support in PostgreSQL (see Configure PostgreSQL).
6. Run the following (see Run the Installer):

   ```
   $ ./gs_install_ubuntu.sh
   ```

7. Start Zope:

   ```
   $ ./bin/instance fg
   ```

8. Visit your new site.

You can remove GroupServer in three steps.

1.2 Requirements

The installation script for Ubuntu will install all the libraries listed below (see Run the Installer). The packages that are required to install GroupServer are listed for Ubuntu, CentOS, and RedHat Enterprise Linux.

System	Packages Ubuntu	CentOS 6.1 or RHEL 6.1

Python	`python2.7`
	`python2.7-dev`
	`python-virtualenv`
		`python-devel`
		`python-setuptools`
		See CentOS and RHEL below .

GNU C++	`g++`	`gcc-c++`
Make	`build-essential`	`make`

PostgreSQL Database	`postgresql`
	`postgresql-server-dev-9.1`
	`libpq-dev`
		`postgresql`
		`postgresql-server`
		`postgresql-libs`
		`postgresql-devel`

Postfix Email Server	`postfix` `postfix-dev`	`postfix`
Redis	`redis-server`	`redis`
JPEG Support	`libjpeg62-dev`	`libjpeg-devel`
zlib (PNG) Support	`zlib1g-dev` `zlib-devel`	`zlib`
SMTP Test	`swaks`	`swaks`

1.3 Download

GroupServer is distributed as a tar-file. To download the latest version of GroupServer visit <http://groupserver.org/downloads> and click `Download`. You must then extract GroupServer from the tar-file into a directory such as `/opt`, `/home` or `/usr/local`.

When the tar-file is extracted a new directory will be made. This directory contains the configuration files for GroupServer. In addition, the installation process will download and install some dependencies into the directory (see Run the Installer). Finally, GroupServer will be run from the same directory (see Start Zope).

Permissions You may need to be the `root` user to extract the archive. If you do then you **must** change the ownership of the new GroupServer directory and all of its contents. GroupServer can only be run by users with normal privileges.

1.4 Set up

Setting up GroupServer is done in four steps: first pick a host name, then configure GroupServer, run the Installer to install the system, and finally start Zope.

1.4.1 Pick a host name

Your new site needs its own hostname. The name needs to be known to the *web browser* that you will use to access the site. It will pass the name to the Zope system that runs GroupServer. (Zope can serve multiple sites, as well as its web-based management system.) For a trial system, the name can be set up in the `hosts(5)` file.

1. Edit `/etc/hosts` as `root`.

2. Add the new host name to the `localhost` entry, which is normally the first one. For example, to add the name `gstest` change the line to the following:

   ```
   127.0.0.1    localhost gstest
   ```

3. Save the `hosts` file.

1.4.2 Configure GroupServer

The configuration of GroupServer is mostly carried out by modifying the `config.cfg` file, which is located in the root of the GroupServer folder [1]. First you must configure the GroupServer Site itself. Next the Zope system, which will run your GroupServer site, needs to be configured, before the database storage.

GroupServer site

You will need to check all the configuration for your initial site.

`host` The domain name used by your new GroupServer instance. It must be the same as what you picked a host name earlier (see Pick a Host Name).

`port` The port that your new GroupServer instance will run on. By default it is `8080`, which is the same as the `zope_port` (see Zope below). (To run on any other port you will need to set up a web proxy.)

`admin_email` When GroupServer is installed, an example site and group are created. So you can use the administration functions you must log in as an administrator. This is the email address of that administrator. Posts to the example group will be sent to the administrator at this address. This email address **must** work.

`admin_password` The password of the administrator of the new GroupServer site. The password will be used to log in, and can be changed after the site has been created.

`support_email` The email address where support messages are sent, and were email notifications are send from. For testing this can be set to your own email address.

`smtp_host` The SMTP host that will be used to send notifications from GroupServer. It defaults to `localhost`, assuming you will be running a local SMTP server.

Zope

Your site will run on the Zope system. This system must also be configured. The default values for `zope_host` and `zope_port` are probably correct. However, for security we recommend you change the name and password of the Zope administrator.

`zope_host` The host that will run Zope. It defaults to the local machine.

`zope_port` The IP port that Zope will listen to. It defaults to 8080. Zope will have to run as `root` to use port 80, and this is discouraged.

`zope_admin` The name of the user who will administer Zope.

`zope_password` The password for the Zope administrator. It can (and should) be changed after GroupServer has been set up.

[1] The `cfg` files are interpreted by the Python ConfigParser module, which accepts a syntax very similar to Windows INI files.

Database storage

GroupServer stores most of its data in PostgreSQL. Two passwords need to be set by you to protect this data.

pgsql_password The password required to attach to the PostgreSQL database. The install system will create a PostgreSQL database, and protect it with this `pgsql_password`.

relstorage_password The RelStorage system will store data in a PostgreSQL database for Zope. This data is protected by the `relstorage_password`.

1.4.3 Configure PostgreSQL

The RelStorage system that is used by GroupServer requires *prepared transaction* support to be enabled in PostgreSQL. To enable prepared transaction support carry out the following steps.

1. Edit the PostgreSQL configuration file. On Ubuntu you must be `root` to edit this file, which is located at `/etc/postgresql/9.1/main/postgresql.conf`.
2. Find the line that reads

   ```
   max_prepared_transactions = 0
   ```

3. Change the line to read

   ```
   max_prepared_transactions = 1
   ```

4. Restart PostgreSQL. On Ubuntu this is done using the following command:

   ```
   $ sudo service postgresql restart
   ```

1.5 Run the installer

The installer for Ubuntu is a Bash script. (For CentOS and RHEL you will have to carry out the steps by hand.) To run the GroupServer installer enter the following command:

```
$ ./gs_install_ubuntu.sh
```

You will be prompted for your password. This is required to check that your Ubuntu system has met all the requirements. Next the installer ensures that the set up is correct.

The rest of the installation process should be completely automatic. The system will create a *sandbox* for your GroupServer site, with its own version of Python, placed in `./bin/`. It will then configure the PostgreSQL databases that store the data for your site. Finally, it will start the buildout system that will **download** and install all the requirements for GroupServer (around 43MB of packages) including:

- eGenix.com mx Base (4.4MB)
- SQL Alchemy (4.3MB)
- lxml (2.8MB)
- Pillow (2.4MB)
- Zope 2.13 (1.4MB)

  Note You need a functioning network connection to download the packages.

It is a good idea to make a cup of coffee, or go to lunch, while buildout processes.

1.5.1 CentOS and RHEL

The process to install GroupServer on CentOS or RedHat Enterprise Linux is manual. The basic idea is as follows, but it lacks testing.

> **Note** Commands that have to be run as `root` are shown on lines that begin with a `#`. Commands that must be run as a normal user are shown on lines that begin with a `$`.

1. Install the requirements.
2. Create the two database users specified in `config.cfg`, using `createuser`:

   ```
   # createuser -D -S -R -l gsadmin
   # createuser -D -S -R -l gszodbadmin
   ```

3. Create the two databases specified in `config.cfg` using `createdb`:

   ```
   # createdb -Ttemplate0 -O gsadmin -EUTF-8 groupserver
   # createdb -Ttemplate0 -O gszodbadmin -EUTF-8 groupserverzodb
   ```

4. Get the Python `virtualenv` package:

   ```
   # easy_install virtualenv
   ```

5. Set up a virtual Python environment for GroupServer:

   ```
   $ virtualenv --no-site-packages .
   ```

6. Grab the `argparse` module:

   ```
   $ ./bin/easy_install argparse==1.1
   ```

7. Fetch the system that builds GroupServer:

   ```
   $ ./bin/easy_install zc.buildout==1.5.2
   ```

8. Run the `buildout` process:

   ```
   $ ./bin/buildout -N
   ```

1.5.2 Start Zope

Your GroupServer site is supported by Zope. To start Zope run the following command:

```
$ ./bin/instance fg
```

Zope will have started when the message `Zope Ready to handle requests` is displayed in the terminal.

You should be able to view your GroupServer site at *http://{host}:{zope_port}*. If you kept the defaults, the address will be <http://gstest:8080>.

- The host is the one you picked earlier (see Pick a Host Name).
- The port is the one that site listens to (see Configure GroupServer).

Use `Control-c` to stop Zope.

> **See also** The documentation *Starting and stopping GroupServer* has more information on running GroupServer, including running it as a daemon. We document the setup required to receive email with GroupServer in *Configuring Postifx*. Finally the steps required to configure a proxy is documented in *Configuring a web proxy*.

1.6 Remove Groupserver

To remove GroupServer, you must remove the database, the associated database user, and the directory that contains the GroupServer install.

1. To remove the database, run the following commands:

   ```
   $ dropdb gstestdb -U postgres
   $ dropuser gstest -U postgres
   ```

   gstestdb The name of the test database.

   postgres The name of the admin of PostgreSQL.

   gstest The name of the PostgreSQL user.

2. Remove the directory that contains the GroupServer install:

   ```
   $ rm -r groupserver-14.03
   ```

1.7 History

Version	Date	Change
14.06	2014-06-23	Moving the sections for configuring the proxy and Postfix to their own documents.
14.03	2014-03-25	Clarifying the Requirements wording.
14.03	2014-03-20	Updating to Ouzo.
12.11	2012-11-27	Adding the sections CentOS and RHEL and Configure PostgreSQL.
12.11	2012-11-19	Adding a link to the Postfix documentation for Ubuntu.
12.11	2012-10-25	Removing some odd dependencies.
12.05	2012-04-30	Updating the Configure GroupServer and Run the Installer sections.
12.05	2012-04-24	Removing unnecessary dependencies, and using `pip` in the *Run Buildout* section.
11.08	2011-12-19	Adding the packages required for XML support and XSLT support on RHEL and CentOS to the list of Req
11.08	2011-12-16	Added the CentOS packages to the list of Requirements, with much thanks to Patrick Leckey.
11.08	2011-11-15	Altering the requirements to switch the `build-essential` dependency to `make` on the advice of David
11.08	2011-10-27	Adding the Download section, and clarifying some more of the documentation.
11.08	2011-10-26	Correcting some mistakes, and clarifying the documentation on the advice of Ross Chesley
11.08	2011-09-01	Reordering the subsections of *Configure Zope*.
11.07	2011-07-08	Adding the `build-essential` depenency and the cut-n-paste `apt-get` block to the Requirements.
11.06	2011-07-05	Adding the prologue.
11.06	2011-07-04	Updating the notes, because of a change to the name of the initial GroupServer instance.
11.06	2011-06-17	Added postfix configuration and spooling notes.
11.05	2011-05-26	Fixed a typing mistake, and mentioned that the `pgsql_dbname` and `pgsql_user` had to be different.
10.09	2010-09-01	Changed how the configuration options are set.
$1.0\beta^2$	2010-07-15	Improved the buildout instructions.
$1.0\beta^2$	2010-07-07	Changed the Zope 2.10 (Python 2.4) instructions to Zope 2.13 (Python 2.6) instructions.
1.0β	2010-06-04	Removed a duplicated instruction from the Quick Start, and bumped the version number.
1.0α	2010-05-31	Typo and minor improvement fixes.
1.0α	2010-05-01	Fixes because upstream broke our buildout.
1.0α	2010-04-29	Better automatic configuration, so the Configure GroupServer section has been removed.
1.0α	2010-04-28	Improved the documentation for `gs_port` and added documentation for the `gs_admin` and `gs_user` c
1.0α	2010-04-23	Added a link to the downloads page. Clarified the security changes that are made to PostgreSQL.
1.0α	2010-04-06	Fixed some quoting in the requirements.
1.0α	2010-03-31	Fixed the Requirements, added Remove GroupServer and History

Conti

Table 1.1 – continued from previous page

Version	Date	Change
1.0α	2010-03-25	Fixed the config options, added Quick Start
1.0α	2009-10-04	Updated to reflect the new egg-based system

1.8 Resources

- Code repository: https://source.iopen.net/groupserver/
- Questions and comments to http://groupserver.org/groups/development
- Report bugs at https://redmine.iopen.net/projects/groupserver

CHAPTER 2

Starting and stopping GroupServer

Authors Michael JasonSmith; Richard Waid;

Contact Michael JasonSmith <mpj17@onlinegroups.net>

Date 2014-05-27

Organization GroupServer.org

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2.1 Introduction

In this document we present a quick introduction to starting GroupServer. First you have to install GroupServer, which is covered in the `groupserver-install.txt` file in the `docs/` directory of your GroupServer folder, or online. Here we will cover trying out GroupServer, and running GroupServer. Finally, we try and deal with some issues, and problems.

2.2 Trying out GroupServer

The first time you fire-up GroupServer it is reassuring to see all the debugging information, in case there is an error.

2.2.1 Starting GroupServer for the first time

Once GroupServer has been installed you should be able to start it with the command in the GroupServer installation directory:

```
$ ./bin/instance fg
```

This starts the Zope instance, which runs GroupServer, in *foreground* mode.

2.2.2 Access the ZMI

Generally most configuration can be done from the Web interface of GroupServer. However the *Zope Management Interface* can be used to perform some low-level tasks, and accessing it is a good indication that everything is working correctly. The ZMI is accessed by visiting `http://{zope_host}:{zope_port}/manage`:

zope_host: The name of the Zope host, that you set in the `config.cfg` file.

zope_port: The port of the Zope host, that you set in the `config.cfg` file.

If the defaults are unaltered then the URL for the ZMI will be <http://localhost:8080/manage/>. If all is well you will be prompted for a user-name and password. These will be the `zope_admin` and `zope_password` that you set in the `config.cfg`.

In the ZMI you should see a `groupserver` folder. Within that a `Contents` folder, leading to an `initial_site`, `groups` and finally `initial_group`.

2.2.3 Access your site

If you can access the ZMI without any problems then the next thing to test is if you can access your site. If you have configured DNS or your local host file correctly, you should be able to access your site at `http://${host}:${port}`:

host: The name of the GroupServer host, that you set in the `config.cfg` file.

port: The port that GroupServer is listening to, that you set in the `config.cfg` file.

If you left the defaults unaltered then the URL for your GroupServer site will be <http://gstest:8080/>.

Log in

Log in as an administrator by clicking the *Sign in* link and entering the `admin_email` and `admin_password` you set in the `config.cfg` file.

2.2.4 Stop the test

To stop testing type `Control-c` in the terminal where GroupServer is running.

2.3 Running GroupServer

Running GroupServer on a more permanent basis requires starting the Zope instance as a demon. To do this run the following command from the GroupServer installation directory:

```
$ ./bin/instance start
```

To stop the Zope instance run the following command:

```
$ ./bin/instance stop
```

2.4 Issues, and problems

Should something go wrong, there is a log files are written to the `var/log/` directory within the GroupServer directory. You can ask questions and make comments in the GroupServer Development group, or in the gsdevel IRC channel on Freenode.

2.4.1 Virtual machines

With virtual machines it can be difficult to connect from your desktop — which has a Web browser — to GroupServer running on the hosted machine. The documentation for your chosen virtual environment should cover how to expose the network interface for a hosted Web service, such as GroupServer.

CHAPTER 3

Configuring Postfix

Authors Michael JasonSmith; Fabien Hespul

Contact Michael JasonSmith <mpj17@onlinegroups.net>

Date 2014-06-23

Organization GroupServer.org

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Postfix provides the email interface for GroupServer. GroupServer uses Postfix to:

- Queue email that is delivered to groups, and
- Pass the email messages to GroupServer.

Configuration files for the Postfix mail server are created when GroupServer is installed. However, it is necessary to change some configuration files so Postfix will send email messages on to GroupServer.

See also If you are new to administering Postfix you may find the Ubuntu Community Postfix Documentation useful.

Postfix has to know to run two scripts when email messages come in for your GroupServer site. Below are the steps for configuring Postfix for either Debian or Ubuntu. (**Note:** You will need to be the root user to carry out most of these tasks.)

1. Copy the configuration files from the GroupServer installation into the Postfix configuration directory:

   ```
   # cp postfix_config/groupserver.* /etc/postfix
   ```

2. Change the ownership of the files to the Postfix user and group. For Ubuntu this would be:

   ```
   # chown nobody.nogroup /etc/postfix/groupserver.*
   ```

   If you are on a system other than Ubuntu, running the following will display the user-name of the Postfix user:

   ```
   $ /usr/sbin/postconf | grep default_privs | cut -f3 -d" "
   ```

3. Open the file `/etc/postfix/main.cf` in a text editor.
4. Find the line that begins with `alias_maps`.
5. Add the item `hash:/etc/postfix/groupserver.virtual` to the end of the `alias_maps` line. Use a comma to separate the new item from the existing items.
6. Find the line that begins with `alias_database`.

7. Add the item `hash:/etc/postfix/groupserver.virtual` to the end of the `alias_database` line. Use a comma to separate the new item from the existing items.
8. Add the following to the bottom, unless it is previously defined

   ```
   smtpd_authorized_verp_clients = 127.0.0.1
   ```

9. Generate the Postfix hashes:

   ```
   # postmap /etc/postfix/groupserver.virtual
   # postalias /etc/postfix/groupserver.aliases
   ```

10. Restart Postfix:

    ```
    # service postfix restart
    ```

CHAPTER 4

Configuring a web proxy

Authors Michael JasonSmith; Fabien Hespul

Contact Michael JasonSmith <mpj17@onlinegroups.net>

Date 2014-06-23

Organization GroupServer.org

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4.1 Introduction

While GroupServer *can* run as a stand-alone web-server, it is **highly recommended** that a proxy is used when making the site available to the public to provide the following services:

- To mediate between the low level HTTP port (port 80) and the high-port that Zope runs on (normally port 8080).
- To rewrite the URL to include a skin directive.
- To rewrite the URL to support virtual hosting.
- To provide caching.

In this document we explain how to add a virtual host to either Apache or nginx. Then we explain how to change the skin.

4.2 Add a virtual host

If you have a new domain [1] that you want to use with your GroupServer installation first you must update the GroupServer configuration and then add a virtual host to Apache or Add a virtual host to nginx.

4.2.1 Update the GroupServer configuration

If you used a host such as `gstest` to try out GroupServer then you will need to update the configuration for GroupServer itself.

1. Visit the ZMI for your site. Log in if necessary.

[1] Acquiring and configuring a new domain is out of the scope for this documentation. However, you want the A-record for your new domain to point to the IP of your GroupServer site, and the MX-record to also point at your new site.

2. Visit the folder `/groupserver/Content/initial_site/`.
3. Open the `DivisionConfiguration`.
4. Set the `canonicalHost` to the domain for your new site.
5. Set the `canonicalPort` to `80`.
6. Click the `Save Changes` button.

4.2.2 Add a virtual host to Apache

To add a virtual host to Apache carry out the following steps.

1. Ensure the `rewrite`, `proxy`, and `proxy_httpd` modules are enabled in Apache:

```
# a2enmod rewrite proxy proxy_http
# service apache2 restart
```

2. Open `/etc/apache2/sites-available/groupserver` in a text-editor.
3. Add the following to the file

```
<VirtualHost *:80>
  ServerAdmin support@example.com
  ServerName groups.example.com

  RewriteEngine on
  RewriteRule ^/(.*) http://localhost:8080/groupserver/Content/initial_site/VirtualHostBase/http

  ProxyVia On

  ErrorLog ${APACHE_LOG_DIR}/error.log

  # Possible values include: debug, info, notice, warn, error, crit,
  # alert, emerg.
  LogLevel info

  CustomLog ${APACHE_LOG_DIR}/access.log combined
</VirtualHost>
```

   - Change the address for the site from `groups.example.com` to that of you new virtual host.
   - Change the email address for `ServerAdmin` from `support@example.com` to the value of the `support_email` in the `config.cfg` file in the GroupServer directory.

4. Link the configuration for your host:

```
# cd /etc/apache2/sites-enabled/
# ln -s ../groupserver 100-groupserver
```

5. Restart Apache:

```
# service apache2 restart
```

4.2.3 Add a virtual host to nginx

Open `/etc/nginx/sites-avaliable/groupserver` in a text-editor.

1. Add the following to the file

```
upstream gs {
  server localhost:8080;
}

server {
  listen 80;
  server_name groups.example.com;

  location / {
    rewrite /(.*) /VirtualHostBase/http/$host:80/groupserver/Content/initial_site/VirtualHostRoo
    proxy_pass http://gs/;
    include proxy_params;
  }
}

server {
  listen 80;
  server_name zmi.groups.example.com;

  location / {
    rewrite /(.*) /VirtualHostBase/http/$host:80/VirtualHostRoot/$1 break;
    proxy_pass http://gs/;
    include proxy_params;
  }
}
```

- Change the `server_name` from `groups.example.com` to that of you new virtual host.
- Make a similar change to the second server, keeping the `zmi.` at the start.

2. Link the configuration for your host:

```
# cd /etc/nginx/sites-enabled/
# ln -s 100-groupserver ../groupserver
```

3. Reload the nginx configuration:

```
# service nginx reload
```

4.3 Change the skin

One of the advantages of adding a proxy is it allows the skin to be easily changed. GroupServer ships with two skins: green and blue. To change the skin you must alter the rewrite rule. In the case of nginx the rewrite rule will look like the following

```
rewrite /(.*) /++skin++blue/VirtualHostBase/http/$host:80/groupserver/Content/initial_site/VirtualHos
```

In the case of Apache the rewrite rule would look like the following

```
RewriteRule ^/(.*) http://localhost:8080/++skin++green/groupserver/Content/initial_site/VirtualHostBa
```

CHAPTER 5

Release notes

5.1 GroupServer 10.09 — Spaghettieis with a Wafer of Confusion

Authors Michael JasonSmith; Richard Waid; Alice Murphy; Dan Randow

Contact Michael JasonSmith <mpj17@onlinegroups.net>

Date 2010-09-09

Organization GroupServer.org

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The changes below form the bulk of what is new in the Spaghettieis release of GroupServer. Work is now progressing on GroupServer 10.10 — Gelato while Viewing the Sights.

5.1.1 Invitations

All the pages that deal with issuing and responding to invitations have changed.

Issuing a Single Invitation

The biggest visible change with invitations is to the page used to issue a single invitation. The administrator can write a **personal message** to the invited member. The administrator can preview the message, and preview the response page [1]. Hopefully this will encourage more invitations to be written, as they are less likely to get marked as spam, and are more likely to get a response.

The **from address** of the invitation is now set to the address of the administrator [2]. This will hopefully reduce the chances of the invitation being caught in a spam filter even further.

The **email address** entry on the invitation page handles incorrect data better, so only email addresses can be entered [3]. In the future I would like GroupServer to be more flexible with the format of the addresses that are entered, but today is not that day [4].

[1] The GroupServer Development online group contains examples of

- The invitation-message preview and
- The response page.

[2] Setting the `From` address in invitations correctly will close Ticket 290.

[3] Being strict about what can be entered as an email address fixes Ticket 325. The fix also corrects the same error with the sign up page.

[4] More tolerant email address handling will hopefully come in Baked Alaska.

Inviting Site Members

The page for inviting site members has been spruced up, but it has not been overhauled in any major way. The **invitation message** can now be changed. However, it cannot be previewed because I am lazy and did not want to go through the hassle of writing a preview of the Accept Invitation page for existing site members. If someone actually uses Invite Site Members and bothers to write a ticket I may get some motivation to write a preview page.

Inviting People In Bulk

The system for inviting people in bulk, by uploading a **CSV**, remains much the same. Those who use the page a lot will notice some better handling of required profile-attributes, but that is about it. The **invitation message** cannot be changed when inviting people in bulk [5].

New Members Accepting Invitations

The page used to accept invitations has undergone a major rewrite. The mechanics (enter a password and join) stay the same. However, the biography of the administrator who issued the invitation is now shown, as well as some sample statistics about the group [6].

New members are now sent a **welcome message** [7]. Hopefully new members will refer to the Welcome message when trying to get back to the group homepage, rather than relying on the invitation. However, if the new member does follow the invitation again he or she will be shown a page that says that the invitation has been accepted, and to the group homepage and *bookmark* it.

If an invitation is **declined** it is noted by the system [8]. Sadly the unwanted profile is not deleted, due to an odd issue with how Zope redirects. I plan to implement a system for removing the unwanted profiles, but it will have to be a manual process for now [9].

All **group administrators** will now get an email saying that a new member has joined the group [10]. If someone declines an invitation then only the person who issued the invitation is informed.

Existing Members Accepting Invitations

The **profile page** now has a list of invitations on it [11]. Clicking on the invitation will go to the *Accept Invitations* page.

The page that allows an existing site-member to accept or decline invitations stays much as it was. It does gain the **group summary** from the *Accept Invitation* page that is shown to new members. It also shares the fixes to the notifications that are sent to the new member and the group administrators.

5.1.2 Join and Leave

The pages that are by people to join a group without an invitation have also changed.

[5] OnlineGroups.Net could not ship an *Invite by CSV* page with an editable message as it is an invitation to spam people. However, we are not be averse to someone writing a page with an editable message and including that in GroupServer.

[6] The GroupServer Development group contains an example of the new Invitation Response page.

[7] Sending a welcome message when joining a group will close Ticket 303. Previously new members only saw a welcome message when signing up or joining a group themselves. The same fix also removed a rather nasty hack.

[8] Logging the declined invitations closes Ticket 278. It is also what allows people to be redurected if they follow invitations that have had a response. It will also add another entry in the ongoing saga "Why Physical Deletes are the Work of the Devil".

[9] A simple Cron-job would probably be fine at cleaning up the unwanted profiles (see Ticket 446).

[10] Telling all group administrators that a new member has joined a group will close an irritating issue with GroupServer.

[11] Adding the list of invitations to the profile page will close Ticket 347.

Join and Sign Up

The *Join* and *Sign Up* pages superficially look exactly the same. However, the code for joining a group is shared with the two *Accept Invitations* pages, so the fixes to notifications are also shared. The only specific improvement is a fix to prevent administrators who join **moderated groups** from being moderated [12].

Leave

The Leave page now presents some alternative ways of **reducing email overload** [13]. The alternatives are going onto a **daily digest** of topics, or to participate in the group using the **web only**. We hope this will reduce the number of people who leave groups.

Join and Leave Log

People joining and leaving groups is now audited [14]. The audit-data is then fed into a new *Join and Leave Log* [15].

5.1.3 Manage Members

The Manage Members page looks much the same as it did. Those familiar with the page will notice the **profile photos**, and a subtle rewording of the text. For example, people who have been invited to join the group are now clearly marked as such. Underneath the page has undergone a major rewrite, thanks to the heroic efforts of Alice [16]. The new page now meshes properly with invitations, so invites can be withdrawn without causing any problems [17].

5.1.4 Change Site Introduction

The page that is used to change the text that appears on the homepage of the site has been updated so it uses the WYMeditor [18]. This is the same JavaScript-based HTML editor that is used to change a biography on the *Profile* of a member.

5.1.5 Share Box

The most visible change is to the topics and posts. all the *Short link* links on the topics and posts pages to a JavaScript-based **share box** [19]. The share box provides a quick and easy way to share a post or topic on Facebook, Twitter, or just as a URL.

5.2 GroupServer 10.10 — Gelato while Viewing the Sights

Authors Michael JasonSmith; Richard Waid; Alice Murphy; Dan Randow

[12] Administrators being moderated only effects administrators of sites with moderated groups; regardless Ticket 235 is closed.
[13] The alternatives to leaving are shown in an example leave page in the GroupServer Development group.
[14] Auditing when people join and leave a group closes Ticket 341.
[15] The GroupServer Development group contains some examples of what the *Join and Leave Log* looks like to different people. Creating the log closes Ticket 341.
[16] Neither Ticket 420, Ticket 442 or the appearance of the page convey what a monumental task it was to rewrite the Manage Members page. It is now a page that can be improved, rather than a huge hack.
[17] It would be best if I kept hacks that *used* to exist around invitations to myself. Invitations now work well, closing Ticket 435.
[18] The fix so the WYMeditor on the *Change the Site Introduction* page closes Ticket 357.
[19] Originally the share-box was slated for Pineapple Snow, but Richard completed the short-link improvements early on the request of a client, closing Ticket 378.

Contact Michael JasonSmith <mpj17@onlinegroups.net>

Date 2010-10-26

Organization GroupServer.org

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The changes below form the bulk of what is new in the Gelato release of GroupServer. Work is now progressing on GroupServer 10.11 — Kulfi Craved while Caving.

5.2.1 New Group Homepage

The homepage used by groups has had a major redesign [20]. Now it is divided into multiple tabs. This allows for information to be better organized, and more easily found. Overall the look is cleaner, and the page is easier to use.

5.2.2 Better Bouncing

Sometimes an email to a group member will not get through, and the message bounces. GroupServer has always recorded these bounces. Now this information is presented to the group administrator, who can see a log of failed attempts to send the member an email message [21].

5.2.3 Resend Invitation

The group administrator now has the option of resending an invitation that did not get through to the new group member [22]. There have been many other minor improvements to the invitation system thanks to the feedback from the users of OnlineGroups.Net.

5.2.4 Notification Updates

The email notifications that are sent out by GroupServer in response to an event have been given a through update. They are now clearer and contain more useful information than before [23].

[20] The details of the new group homepage is available in the Group Homepage Rebuild topic in GroupServer Development. Deploying the new homepage closes Ticket 426 and a slew of sub-tickets.

[21] Showing a log of the failed attempts to send a message closes

- Ticket 15!
- Ticket 509

[22] Allowing administrators to reissue an invitation closes Ticket 489

[23] Updating the notifications closes eight tickets

- Ticket 163
- Ticket 215
- Ticket 216
- Ticket 221
- Ticket 222
- Ticket 223
- Ticket 466
- Ticket 513

5.2.5 New Favicon

GroupServer now has a new multi-resolution favicon, which is shown in the location bar of the browser [24].

5.2.6 New Help System

The user manual and administration manuals are out of date and in need of work. To help with this a new help system has been introduced [25]. It allows for sections of the manuals to be more easily maintained, which will hopefully allow for better manuals in the future.

5.2.7 Switch to Zope 2.13 Beta

GroupServer now runs on the the latest version of Zope 2. The new features in Zope are used for the new group homepage, and the new help system.

5.3 GroupServer 10.11 — Kulfi Craved while Caving

Authors Michael JasonSmith; Richard Waid; Alice Murphy; Dan Randow

Contact Michael JasonSmith <mpj17@onlinegroups.net>

Date 2010-11-30

Organization GroupServer.org

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The changes below form the bulk of what is new in the Kulfi release of GroupServer:

- Enhancements to groups, including a clearer group properties page, a more flexible delivery settings page, a simplified start a group process, and a new group homepage about tab.
- Management of a group member is now easier.
- There have been some set password enhancements and notification updates.
- Finally, the buildout process has been improved.

All these enhancements will be available to new GroupServer installations, and those who update an existing groupserver system.

Work is now progressing on GroupServer 10.12 — Lemon Ice in the Cool of the Evening.

5.3.1 Group Properties Page

The page used to set the group properties has been simplified [26], following a discussion about the properties [27]. There are fewer properties, as many properties have been replaced by the group homepage about tab. The properties that remain have been given clearer names.

The new group properties page is now a standard `zope.formlib` form, rather than relying on the older GroupServer `XForms` code. This means that standard features of forms on GroupServer are present, such as popup help.

[24] Creating the new favicon for GroupServer closes Ticket 510
[25] Creating the new help pages closes Ticket 485
[26] The new group properties page closes Ticket 292
[27] The GroupServer Development group hosted a lively debate about topics

5.3.2 Delivery Settings Page

The page used to change the email delivery settings of a group member has been updated [28]. The biggest advantage to the new page is that administrators can now change the delivery settings of group members. For members the page looks and behaves much as it did before. However, the system has undergone a major rework behind the scenes. This will make the page easier to maintain, extend and change.

5.3.3 Start a Group

The start a group system has been simplified to a one-step process [29]. Rather than a separate Preview step the new system dynamically previews the URL and email address of the new group. It also dynamically checks if the group identifier is unique.

It is not possible to create *announcement* groups with the simplified system. However, announcement groups are still supported by GroupServer and will continue to be supported. To create an announcement group first create a discussion group. Then use the ZMI to change the `group_template` property to `announcement`.

5.3.4 Group Homepage About Tab

The new group homepage about tab replaces the little-used Charter page [30]. The new tab provides a blank area where a site administrator is free to write any HTML. The WYMeditor is used to edit the contents of the tab [31].

5.3.5 Management of a Group Member

A group administrator is now shown a *Manage Member* link when viewing the profile of a member [32]. This should make managing members even easier than before.

5.3.6 Set Password

The code used to set and reset passwords has been updated. Members will be shown better error messages when they follow password-reset links multiple times [33]. In addition all the Set Password pages have been updated to use a single text entry, rather than two password entries [34].

5.3.7 Notification Updates

Some notifications that are stored in the ZMI have been updated. In addition better feedback is given for those who fail to change the group-delivery settings by email [35].

[28] Creating a new email-settings page closes Ticket 371
[29] Simplifying the process used to start a group closes Ticket 304
[30] Creating the About Tab closes Ticket 493
[31] GroupServer uses the excellent WYMeditor as its HTML editor. Pages that use the editor include *Change Profile*, *Change Site Introduction* and all pages that are editable with the Content Manager (such as *About* and *Policies*.
[32] Creating a link from the profile page to the manage member page closes Ticket 515
[33] Knowing when a password has been reset closes Ticket 326
[34] Why text entries are used to set passwords is explained in this blog post
[35] The clean up to notifications closes three tickets:

1. Ticket 205
2. Ticket 231
3. Ticket 531

5.3.8 Buildout

Buildout is the system that GroupServer uses to install the system. The buildout process has been improved in three ways. First, some issues with the environment relating to installing `lxml` have been resolved [36]. Second, the standard system is used to add the default administrator and user to the example group. This should reduce the chance of errors occurring in the future. Finally, summary information about the new GroupServer site is displayed at the end of the buildout process. This should make it easier to start and view the new GroupServer site.

5.3.9 Update an Existing GroupServer System

To update an existing GroupServer system to Kulfi you will have to update the package versions, update the SQL, and update the ZODB.

Update the Package Versions

Carry out the following steps to update the package versions.

1. Download the Kulfi tar-ball from the GroupServer download page
2. Uncompress the tar-ball.
3. Copy the file `groupserver-10.11/versions.cfg` to your existing GroupServer installation.
4. In your existing GroupServer installation run:

   ```
   $ ./bin/buildout -N
   ```

Update the SQL

The set password enhancements require an update to the relational database that stores GroupServer data. Carry out the following steps to update the database.

1. In `instance.cfg` look up `pgsql_dbname` and the `pgsql_user`, and note their values.
2. Run the following command:

   ```
   $ psql -U {psql_user} {psql_dbname} -c "ALTER TABLE "\
     "password_reset ADD COLUMN reset TIMESTAMP WITH TIME ZONE "\
     "DEFAULT NULL;"
   ```

Older installations will also have to update the table used to record invitations:

```
$ psql -U {psql_user} {psql_dbname} -c "ALTER TABLE "\
  "user_group_member_invitation ADD COLUMN initial_invite "\
  "BOOLEAN DEFAULT FALSE, ADD COLUMN withdrawn_date TIMESTAMP "\
  "WITH TIME ZONE, ADD COLUMN withdrawing_user_id TEXT;"
```

Update the ZODB

To get the notification updates into an existing GroupServer system you will have to update the email-templates in the ZODB. Email <support@onlinegroups.net> or GroupServer Development if you need a hand with this.

[36] The `lxml` improvements should resolve the issues that Tom had when installing GroupServer

5.4 GroupServer 10.12 — Lemon Ice in the Cool of the Evening

Authors Michael JasonSmith; Richard Waid; Alice Murphy; Dan Randow

Contact Michael JasonSmith <mpj17@onlinegroups.net>

Date 2010-12-17

Organization GroupServer.org

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The Lemon Ice release of GroupServer mostly consists of changes to the CSS.

- New layout, based on the layout of OnlineGroups.net.
- Two new color schemes (skins):
  1. Blue, based on the E-Democracy.org Forums
  2. Green, based on OnlineGroups.Net
- *Fit and finish* work to improve the look of GroupServer.
- Integration of the jQuery.UI code into the default CSS.

Work is now starting on GroupServer 11.01 — Baked Alaska with an Eye on the Soviets.

5.4.1 Update an Existing GroupServer System

To update an existing GroupServer system to Lemon Ice you will have to update the package versions. To use the new skins you will have to update the virtual hosting.

Update the Package Versions

Carry out the following steps to update the package versions.

1. Download the Lemon Ice tar-ball from the GroupServer download page
2. Uncompress the tar-ball.
3. Copy the file `groupserver-10.12/versions.cfg` to your existing GroupServer installation.
4. In your existing GroupServer installation run:

   ```
   $ ./bin/buildout -N
   ```

Update the Virtual Hosting

The virtual hosting will need to be updated in order to use the new skins. Without the new skins the default black-and-white color scheme will be shown. By default Zope is set up to provide the virtual hosting. To change the Zope setup carry out the following

1. Log into the ZMI for your site.
2. Select `virtual_hosting`. You should see the page for the Virtual Host Monster.
3. Select the `Mappings` tab. You should see a line that starts with the name of your site (`gstest` by default) that is followed path to the site (`/example/Content/example_site/`).

4. Add `++skin++gs_blue` to the end of the path for the blue skin. Alternatively add `++skin++gs_green` for the green skin.
5. Click the *Save Changes* button.
6. Visit the homepage your site (<http://gstest/> by default).
7. Reload the page. You may need to hold down `Shift` when clicking the Reload button to ensure you reload the CSS.

5.5 GroupServer 11.01 — Baked Alaska with and Eye on the Soviets

Authors Michael JasonSmith; Richard Waid; Alice Murphy; Dan Randow

Contact Michael JasonSmith <mpj17@onlinegroups.net>

Date 2011-01-31

Organization GroupServer.org

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The Baked Alaska release of GroupServer mostly consists of changes to the email verification system.

- Error handling is improved. Following an old verification link will show a suggestion to view your profile, rather than an Unexpected Error page. In addition the corner cases of a missing verification ID and broken ID are handled.
- The Verification page now more closely conforms to Web standards.
- The verification code (`gs.profile.email.verify`) is now easier to understand and extend.

In addition the site homepage has been modified. Now the groups and profile image of a logged in user are shown. This should make groups easier to find.

Work is now starting on GroupServer 11.02 — Tartufo Nibbled in Polite Company.

5.5.1 Update an Existing GroupServer System

Carry out the following steps to update the package versions.

1. Download the Baked Alaska tar-ball from the GroupServer download page
2. Uncompress the tar-ball.
3. Copy the file `groupserver-11.01/versions.cfg` to your existing GroupServer installation.
4. In your existing GroupServer installation run:

```
$ ./bin/buildout -N
```

5.6 GroupServer 11.02 — Tartufo Nibbled in Polite Company

Authors Michael JasonSmith; Richard Waid; Alice Murphy; Dan Randow

Contact Michael JasonSmith <mpj17@onlinegroups.net>

Date 2011-02-28

Organization GroupServer.org

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The Tartufo release of GroupServer mostly consists of enhancements so errors are handled better.

- A new *Unexpected Error* page provides more detail to the user. In addition, the pre-written message to support contains a full stack-trace. This information can be used to find and eliminate the error [37].
- Many errors were generated when non-existent pages were accessed. These errors have been fixed, primarily in the mailing-list code. This should make problems recorded in the error-log maintained by Zope easier to find, as there should be fewer items in the log [38].
- Changes to email addresses are now better recorded [39]. This should help diagnose problems better if there is an error subsequent to an address changing.
- The jQuery code shipped with GroupServer has been updated to the latest stable version (1.4.4).
- The code that generates the image, post, and topic pages has been refactored. This should make those pages easier to maintain.

Work is now starting on GroupServer 11.03 — Pineapple Snow at a Child's Party.

5.6.1 Update an Existing GroupServer System

Carry out the following steps to update the package versions.

1. Download the Tartufo tar-ball from the GroupServer download page
2. Uncompress the tar-ball.
3. Copy the file `groupserver-11.02/versions.cfg` to your existing GroupServer installation.
4. In your existing GroupServer installation run:

   ```
   $ ./bin/buildout -N
   ```

5.7 GroupServer 11.03 — Pineapple Snow at a Child's Party

Authors Michael JasonSmith; Richard Waid; Alice Murphy; Dan Randow

Contact Michael JasonSmith <mpj17@onlinegroups.net>

Date 2011-03-29

Organization GroupServer.org

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The Pineapple Snow release of GroupServer contains four main enhancements and corrections.

- There is an Updated Change Email Settings Page.
- Searching will now search the topic and post titles [40].

[37] The new Unexpected Error page is detailed in a post to GroupServer Development.
[38] The *traversal* errors were those caused by not handling errors that were thrown by pages in the messages, profile, and files area.
[39] Recording more information about email addresses changing closes Ticket 432.
[40] Updating search closes Ticket 227

- An *Edit this page* link is sometimes shown to logged out users on editable pages [41].
- The *Accept Invitation* page looks a lot better [42].

You can get Pineapple Snow immediately. Work is now starting on GroupServer 11.04 — Slushy followed by a Pounding Headache.

5.7.1 Updated Change Email Settings Page

The Change Email Settings page has had an extensive redesign [43]. Email addresses can be dragged from one list to another in order to characterise them. The old interface relied on menus and multiple buttons, and was far harder to use. In addition the new interface automatically updates when an email address is verified [44].

The new interface uses the jQuery UI JavaScript library, just like the group homepage. jQuery UI is an excellent library builds on the already great jQuery library [45].

5.7.2 Get Pineapple Snow

To get Pineapple Snow go to the Downloads page for GroupServer and follow the GroupServer Installation documentation.

Those who already have a functioning installation can update an existing GroupServer system.

Update an Existing GroupServer System

Carry out the following steps to update the package versions.

1. Download the Pineapple Snow tar-ball from the GroupServer download page
2. Uncompress the tar-ball.
3. Copy the file `groupserver-11.03/versions.cfg` to your existing GroupServer installation.
4. In your existing GroupServer installation run:

   ```
   $ ./bin/buildout -N
   ```

5.8 GroupServer 11.04 — Slushy Followed by a Pounding Headache

Authors Michael JasonSmith; Richard Waid; Dan Randow

Contact Michael JasonSmith <mpj17@onlinegroups.net>

Date 2011-04-29

Organization GroupServer.org

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[41] The *Edit this page* link is only shown to the Anonymous user if logged in members can edit the page. Showing this link closes Ticket 384

[42] The *Accept Invitiation* was hit by a CSS error. Fixing the error closes Ticket 618 and fixes a related error on other pages with radio buttons and check buttons.

[43] The redesign of the *Change Email Settings* page closes Ticket 478 and Ticket 472. The topic in GroupServer Development details the new design.

[44] Automatically updating the *Change Email Settings* page when an address is verified closes Ticket 276.

[45] The new *Change Email Settings* page uses the sortable widgets and the dialog widget from jQuery UI.

The Slushy release of GroupServer contains two main enhancements. You can get Slushy immediately. Work is now starting on GroupServer 11.05 — Eskimo Pie with Middle-Class Guilt.

5.8.1 Enhancements

The two main enhancements to GroupServer are

- Posts can now be hidden (see Hide a Post below) and
- Full email addresses can now be used to issue invitations.

There are also some minor fixes.

Hide a Post

The most significant change to GroupServer is the introduction of an interface to allow posts to be hidden [46]. Both administrators and the author of the post can hide it. People trying to view the post, by itself or in a topic, will see the reason the post was hidden instead of the message. Anyone trying to view a file or image that was added as part of the post will see an error-page that states why the post was hidden.

Full Email Addresses

Prior to Slushy GroupServer would only accept the portion of an email address with an `@` in it — such as `support@onlinegroups.net`. Now the *Invite a New Member* page can handle the full address. This address can include a name, such as `"OnlineGroups.Net Support" <support@onlinegroups.net>` [47]. Other pages will be converted to support full addresses over time.

Minor Fixes

Minor fixes in Slushy include

- A fix to the *Join and Leave Log* so it now uses jQuery UI tabs [48],
- A fix to the *view* link in the content editor so it works [49], and
- Resolving an error with the *Change Email Settings* page that occurred when someone had no preferred email address set [50].

5.8.2 Get Slushy

To get Slushy go to the Downloads page for GroupServer and follow the GroupServer Installation documentation.

Those who already have a functioning installation can update an existing GroupServer system.

Update an Existing GroupServer System

To upgrade an existing GroupServer system to Slushy you must first update the database and then update the packages.

[46] The new Hide a Post interface closes Ticket 316 and many minor tickets that were related to hiding a post.
[47] Support a full email address closes Ticket 445.
[48] Switching the *Join and Leave Log* to use tabs from jQuery.UI closes Ticket 641.
[49] Fixing the issue with the *view* link closes Ticket 642.
[50] Fixing the coding error on with the *Change Email Settings* page closes Ticket 660

Update the Database

The hide a post update requires a change to the database tables that are uses to record information about topics and posts. It also requires the creation of a new table to record information about why posts have been hidden.

Too update the database carry out the following steps.

1. Log into the PostgreSQL database used GroupServer by using the following command:

   ```
   $ psql -Upgsql_user pgsql_dbname
   ```

   Note that `pgsql_user` and `pgsql_dbname` are the database user and database name that was setup during installation. Both can be found in the `instance.cfg` file in the installation directory of GroupServer.

2. Run the following SQL to update the post and topic tables:

   ```
   ALTER TABLE topic ADD COLUMN hidden TIMESTAMP WITH TIME ZONE;
   ALTER TABLE post ADD COLUMN hidden TIMESTAMP WITH TIME ZONE;
   ```

3. Finally, create the hidden post table by running the following SQL commands:

   ```
   CREATE TABLE hidden_post (
     post_id       TEXT REFERENCES post ON UPDATE CASCADE,
     date_hidden   TIMESTAMP WITH TIME ZONE NOT NULL,
     hiding_user   TEXT NOT NULL,
     reason        TEXT
   );
   CREATE UNIQUE INDEX hidden_post_pkey
     ON hidden_post
     USING BTREE(post_id, date_hidden);
   ```

Update the Packages

Carry out the following steps to update the package versions.

1. Download the Pineapple Snow tar-ball from the GroupServer download page
2. Uncompress the tar-ball.
3. Copy the file `groupserver-11.04/versions.cfg` to your existing GroupServer installation.
4. In your existing GroupServer installation run:

   ```
   $ ./bin/buildout -N
   ```

5.9 GroupServer 11.05 — Eskimo Pie with Middle Class Guilt

Authors Michael JasonSmith; Richard Waid; Dan Randow

Contact Michael JasonSmith <mpj17@onlinegroups.net>

Date 2011-05-27

Organization GroupServer.org

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The main update to GroupServer that is present in the Eskimo Pie release is the new request membership system. However there are other minor fixes that have been made. You can get Eskimo Pie immediately. Work is now starting on GroupServer 11.06 — Soft Serve from Mr Whippy.

5.9.1 Request Membership

The Request Membership system [51] allows someone to request membership of a private group. The group administrator is informed of the request by email. The administrator can then accept or decline the request using a Web interface. Effectively the Request Membership system works like the system that is used to invite people to join groups, but in reverse.

5.9.2 Minor Fixes

Minor fixes in Eskimo Pie include the following.

- An update to the Start a Group system so the system administrator is made the group administrator [52].
- When an email address is verified it is made the preferred delivery address if the user has no other preferred delivery addresses [53].
- The list of files that are associated with a post are more clearly demarcated from the body of the message [54].
- Long URLs no longer word-wrap in the body of posts [55].
- Zope has been updated to 2.3.6 [56]. This *may* cause problems with some configurations, as IPv6 support is now present.

5.9.3 Get Eskimo Pie

To get Eskimo Pie go to the Downloads page for GroupServer and follow the GroupServer Installation documentation.

Those who already have a functioning installation can update an existing GroupServer system.

Update an Existing GroupServer System

To upgrade an existing GroupServer system to Eskimo Pie you must first update the database and then update the packages.

Update the Database

The Request Membership update requires the creation of a new table to record information about membership requests. To update the database carry out the following steps.

1. Log into the PostgreSQL database used GroupServer by using the following command:

[51] Adding the Request Membership system (finally) closes Ticket 49. More information in the Request Membership system can be found in the Request Membership topic.
[52] Setting the group administrator when the group is started closes Ticket 611.
[53] Setting the verified address as the preferred delivery address closes Ticket 661.
[54] Enhancing the file notification area closes Ticket 664
[55] Fixing the URLs so the do not break over multiple lines closes Ticket 671.
[56] Updating to Zope 2.3.6 is something I am sure to regret, because it has the potential to make GroupServer installation even more tricky than before. However, it is done, and I have closed Ticket 672.

```
$ psql -Upgsql_user pgsql_dbname
```

Note that `pgsql_user` and `pgsql_dbname` are the database user and database name that was setup during installation. Both can be found in the `instance.cfg` file in the installation directory of GroupServer.

2. Run the following SQL to create the request membership table:

```
CREATE TABLE user_group_member_request (
  request_id          TEXT                        PRIMARY KEY,
  user_id             TEXT                        NOT NULL,
  site_id             TEXT                        NOT NULL,
  group_id            TEXT                        NOT NULL,
  request_date        TIMESTAMP WITH TIME ZONE    NOT NULL,
  message             TEXT,
  responding_user_id  TEXT,
  response_date       TIMESTAMP WITH TIME ZONE,
  accepted            BOOLEAN
);
```

Update the Packages

Carry out the following steps to update the package versions.

1. Download the Eskimo Pie tar-ball from the GroupServer download page
2. Uncompress the tar-ball.
3. Copy the file `groupserver-11.05/versions.cfg` to your existing GroupServer installation.
4. Copy the file `groupserver-11.05/buildout.cfg` to your existing GroupServer installation.
5. In your existing GroupServer installation run:

```
$ ./bin/buildout
```

5.10 GroupServer 11.06 — Soft Serve from Mr Whippy

Authors Michael JasonSmith; Richard Waid; Dan Randow

Contact Michael JasonSmith <mpj17@onlinegroups.net>

Date 2011-07-04

Organization GroupServer.org

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5.10.1 Introduction

The two main updates to GroupServer that are present in the Soft Serve release are an update to the code that determines if someone can post, and a rebuild of the site administration pages. In addition there are other minor fixes that have been made. You can get Soft Serve immediately. Work is now starting on GroupServer 11.07 — Frozen Yoghurt Accompanied by Carols.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Le Coyote and DJS for their very helpful suggestions, and testing early releases of Soft Serve.

5.10.2 Can Post

When someone posts to a group the system checks to see if the user has the correct permissions. The code that does this is known as the *can post* code. In Soft Serve this code has undergone two main changes.

1. Email addresses can be blocked from posting [57]. This mechanism, known as blacklisting, extends the existing system that prevented addresses on the black-list from receiving posts. There is no user-interface for this system.
2. The code has been moved to its own product [58].

5.10.3 Site Administration Pages

The site-administration pages did not work well. All the site administration pages have been updated [59]. In particular, the pages that allow an administrator to set the site timezone [60] and change the site name [61] have been fixed so they work correctly.

5.10.4 Minor Fixes

Minor fixes in Soft Serve include the following.

- If a member with a single unverified address resets a password then that address will become verified [62].
- The `Reply-to` address of an invitation is now set to the address of the administrator who issued the invitation [63].
- Only posting members of an announcement group are shown a link to start a topic [64].
- The name of the initial GroupServer instance and GroupServer site have been changed [65].
- A coding error with the Members page has been fixed [66].

5.10.5 Get Soft Serve

To get Soft Serve go to the Downloads page for GroupServer and follow the GroupServer Installation documentation. Those who already have a functioning installation can update an existing GroupServer system.

[57] Adding the code for blocking a post closed Ticket 459. This enhancement mostly helps Support groups, which otherwise lack a way to prevent people from posting.

[58] There is a long-running project to move code from the large `Products` eggs to many more smaller `gs` eggs. The move of the Can Post code to `gs.group.member.canpost` from the old `Products.GSGroupMember` is part of this. Moving the code closes Ticket 423.

[59] Updating the site administration pages closes Ticket 620.

[60] Updating the site-timezone page closes Ticket 662.

[61] Updating the page that allows a site-name to be changed closes Ticket 607.

[62] Only the simple case of a single-address being verified is currently handled. Verifying an email address when the password is reset closes Ticket 480.

[63] Prior to Soft Serve, the `Reply-to` address was set to the email address of the site support. Setting the `Reply-to` to the address of the administrator that issued the invitation closes Ticket 681.

[64] In an announcement group there is a distinction between group members that post (*posting members*) and members that just view posts (*normal members*). Prior to Soft Serve all group members saw the link on the homepage to the *Start a Topic* page. A normal member would see an error if he or she followed that link. Just showing the link on the homepage to the posting members closes Ticket 530.

[65] Prior to Soft Serve the initial GroupServer instance, site and group had names that contained `example`. Now the instance is called `groupserver`, the initial site is called `initial_site`, and the initial group is called `example_group`. Renaming the instance and site Ticket 690.

[66] Fixing the coding error on the Members page closes Ticket 680.

Update an Existing GroupServer System

To upgrade an existing GroupServer system to Soft Serve you must first update the packages and then update the ZMI.

Update the Packages

Carry out the following steps to update the package versions.

1. Download the Soft Serve tar-ball from the GroupServer download page.
2. Uncompress the tar-ball.
3. Copy the file `groupserver-11.06/versions.cfg` to your existing GroupServer installation.
4. Copy the file `groupserver-11.06/buildout.cfg` to your existing GroupServer installation.
5. In your existing GroupServer installation run:

   ```
   $ ./bin/buildout
   ```

Update the ZMI

The update to the site administration pages requires an instance to be deleted from the Zope Management Interface (*ZMI*) before it will work. To delete the instance carry out to the following tasks.

1. Start GroupServer:

   ```
   $ ./bin/instance fg
   ```

2. View the ZMI. If you did not change the defaults the ZMI can be accessed from <http://localhost:8080/manage/>.
3. Enter the user-name and password of the ZMI administrator.
4. Visit the ZMI page for the Example Site. This should be under `example`, `Content`, `example_site`.
5. Select the check-box next to `admindivision (Administer Site)`.
6. Click the Delete button. The `adminidivision` instance should be deleted.

After deleting the `admindivision` instance you should be able to view the new site administration pages. To view these pages you must view the homepage for your site and click on the link to administer the site.

5.10.6 Footnotes

5.11 GroupServer 11.07 — Frozen Yoghurt Accompanied by Carols

Authors Michael JasonSmith; Richard Waid; Dan Randow

Contact Michael JasonSmith <mpj17@onlinegroups.net>

Date 2011-07-28

Organization GroupServer.org

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5.11.1 Introduction

The main update that is present in the Frozen Yoghurt release of GroupServer is a new stylesheet for devices with narrow displays . There is also a new converter for HTML-formatted messages. In addition a number of minor fixes are part of this release. You can get Frozen Yoghurt immediately. Work is now starting on GroupServer 11.08 — Banana Split Eaten in a Comfortable Silence.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Steven Clift for his support with the new stylesheet. Thanks also to Le Coyote and Alice Murphy for testing an early release of Frozen Yoghurt.

5.11.2 New Stylesheet

Devices with narrow displays, such as mobile phones and tablets, now have a dedicated stylesheet [67]. The system uses CSS3 Media Queries to reformat the page when the browser window is narrow. Pages that have been specifically optimised for small-screen devices include

- The site homepage,
- The group page,
- The topic page and
- The image page.

Many other pages work on small screens, including the post page and the topics page.

5.11.3 HTML-Formatted Messages

Email messages can be in multiple formats, including plain text and HTML. Sometimes email messages are formatted using just HTML. When this occurs GroupServer converts the HTML version of the message into a plain-text version. It is this plain-text version of the post that is displayed on the Web pages. The code that converts the HTML-message into plain-text has been updated [68]. The updated code uses the standard Python HTML Parser library to parse the message, and also handles URLs better.

5.11.4 Minor Fixes

Minor fixes in Frozen Yoghurt include the following.

- The position of the Sticky form in a topic has been moved, so it is visible when there is only one post [69].
- Files that are part of hidden posts are hidden from the index of files at the top of the topic [70]. (Files that were part of hidden posts were never able to be viewed.)
- A new configuration system for GroupServer is present, but not used. The `gs.option` product is part of an ongoing effort to move more data out of the ZODB and into the PostgreSQL relational database. The `README` in the base of the `gs.option` product has more details.
- An error with the Can Post code was fixed.

[67] The new mobile CSS closes Ticket 444. More information on the mobile stylesheet can be found in the topic in GroupServer Development.
[68] Updating the converter closes Ticket 596.
[69] Fixing the position of the Sticky form in a topic closes Ticket 705.
[70] Hiding posts that are part of hidden files closes Ticket 692.

- The word *Home* has been dropped from the group page, as it added nothing and took up valuable space (which was especially noticeable with the new stylesheet).

5.11.5 Get Frozen Yoghurt

To get Frozen Yoghurt go to the Downloads page for GroupServer and follow the GroupServer Installation documentation. Those who already have a functioning installation can update an existing GroupServer system.

Update an Existing GroupServer System

To update an existing GroupServer system to Frozen Yoghurt you must update the database and then update the packages.

Update the Database

The new `options` code requires the creation of a new table to record information about the properties of the various parts of GroupServer (see Minor Fixes). To update the database carry out the following steps.

1. Log into the PostgreSQL database used GroupServer by using the following command:

   ```
   $ psql -Upgsql_user pgsql_dbname
   ```

   Note that `pgsql_user` and `pgsql_dbname` are the database user and database name that were set during installation. Both can be found in the `instance.cfg` file in the installation directory of GroupServer.

2. Run the following SQL to create the `options` table:

   ```
   CREATE TABLE option (
       component_id      TEXT  NOT NULL,
       option_id         TEXT  NOT NULL,
       site_id           TEXT  NOT NULL,
       group_id          TEXT  NOT NULL,
       value             TEXT
   );

   CREATE UNIQUE INDEX option_idx
   ON option (component_id, option_id, site_id, group_id);
   ```

Update the Packages

To upgrade the pages in an existing GroupServer system to Frozen Yoghurt carry out the following steps.

1. Download the Frozen Yoghurt tar-ball from the GroupServer download page.
2. Uncompress the tar-ball.
3. Copy the file `groupserver-11.07/versions.cfg` to your existing GroupServer installation.
4. Copy the file `groupserver-11.07/buildout.cfg` to your existing GroupServer installation.
5. In your existing GroupServer installation run:

   ```
   $ ./bin/easy_install -U setuptools && ./bin/python bootstrap.py
   $ ./bin/buildout
   ```

The `setuptools` have to be updated, and `bootstrap.py` rerun, because the version of Zope used by GroupServer has undergone an update.

5.11.6 Footnotes

5.12 GroupServer 11.08 — Banana Split Eaten in a Comfortable Silence

Authors Michael JasonSmith; Richard Waid; Dan Randow

Contact Michael JasonSmith <mpj17@onlinegroups.net>

Date 2011-08-31

Organization GroupServer.org

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5.12.1 Introduction

The main update that is present in the Banana release of GroupServer is a Facebook signup system. You can get Banana Split immediately.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Steven Clift for his support for the Facebook signup system.

5.12.2 Facebook Signup

Previously, new members had to provide all their profile information during signup. Now new members have the option of logging into Facebook to retrieve the profile information. Signing up using Facebook is beneficial in two ways.

1. The email address of the new member does not have to be verified, as Facebook has already verified the address. This reduces the number of steps required for sign-up from three to two.
2. Much of the profile information does not have to be added, as it is copied in from Facebook.

The new member has a choice to use the older signup system that just uses email, or the new Facebook signup. The latter option is automatically available after the administrator has setup Facebook signup.

Setup

You must acquire two values from Facebook to enable Facebook Signup.

Application ID Value This is the identifier for your Facebook *application*.

Application Secret Value This is the secret key that is passed from your site to Facebook.

To get these values you will need to register your site as an *application* with Facebook. Do this by visiting <https://developers.facebook.com/> and following the instructions. Facebook will then supply you with an `App ID` and `App Secret`. Once you have these you can carry out the following tasks.

1. Log into the PostgreSQL database used GroupServer by using the following command:

   ```
   $ psql -Upgsql_user pgsql_dbname
   ```

   Note that `pgsql_user` and `pgsql_dbname` are the database user and database name that were set during installation. Both can be found in the `instance.cfg` file in the installation directory of GroupServer.

2. Run the following SQL to add the `App ID` and `App Secret` to the `options` table:

   ```
   INSERT INTO option
   VALUES (
     'gs.profile.signup.facebook',
     'app_id',
     NULL,
     NULL,
     App ID
   );

   INSERT INTO option
   VALUES (
     'gs.profile.signup.facebook',
     'app_secret',
     NULL,
     NULL,
     App Secret
   );
   ```

   Note the `App ID` and `App Secret` in the above SQL are the values provided by Facebook. Both values will need to be in quotes.

Once the data is in the `options` table the Sign Up page will automatically show the option to sign up using Facebook.

5.12.3 Get Banana Split

To get Banana Split go to the Downloads page for GroupServer and follow the GroupServer Installation documentation. Those who already have a functioning installation can update an existing GroupServer system.

Update an Existing GroupServer System

To update an existing GroupServer system to Banana Split carry out the following steps.

1. Download the Banana Split tar-ball from the GroupServer download page.
2. Uncompress the tar-ball.
3. Copy the file `groupserver-11.08/versions.cfg` to your existing GroupServer installation.
4. Copy the file `groupserver-11.08/buildout.cfg` to your existing GroupServer installation.
5. In your existing GroupServer installation run:

   ```
   $ ./bin/buildout
   ```

5.13 GroupServer 12.05 — Faloodeh Consumed with an Eye on History

Authors Michael JasonSmith; Richard Waid; Dan Randow

Contact Michael JasonSmith <mpj17@onlinegroups.net>

Date 2012-05-02

Organization GroupServer.org

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5.13.1 Introduction

The changes to GroupServer in the Faloodeh release cover sites, groups and profiles — making them all more usable and extensible. You can get Faloodeh immediately.

5.13.2 Changes to GroupServer

The changes in Faloodeh are mostly group improvements, profile improvements and a new site homepage. In addition we have made steps towards easier installation, and there have been some minor changes.

Group Improvements

The most visible change to groups in this release of GroupServer is to the notifications. However, the primary improvement is new code to determine if someone can post to a group. Underlying this is a system for more extensible groups.

Minor changes to groups include the following.

Better Links in Posts: Now `http://youtu.be` links are turned into embedded YouTube videos, and `www.` "links" are turned into hypertext links. Thanks to Steven Clift at E-Democracy.Org for sponsoring this improvement.

Rest of Post Button: The button to show the *remainder* of a post (normally just bottom-quoted text) is now labelled "Rest of post".

Public Access Period: The default public access period for files is now set to 72 hours. This is the period that no password is required to access a file, making it easier for group members who follow conversations using email to access the files that are posted to the group.

Notifications

Four notifications have been rewritten. There are HTML versions of both

- The *Welcome* message [71], which is sent to new group members, and
- The *New Member* notification, which is sent to the administrator when someone joins a group [72].

The *Invitation* to join a group has undergone a rewrite too, along with a new default invitation-message from the group-administrator.

Finally, the *Cannot Post* notification has undergone an extensive change, along with the rest of the can post system [73]. It now has a HTML variant, as well as a wording change to (hopefully) make it easer to understand.

[71] A sample *Welcome* message can be viewed at <http://groupserver.org/groups/development/new-member-msg.html>
[72] A sample *New Member* message can be viewed at <http://groupserver.org/groups/development/new-member-admin-msg.html>
[73] A sample *Cannot Post* message can be viewed at <http://groupserver.org/groups/development/cannot-post.html>

Can Post

The biggest change to groups was a complete rewrite of the system that determines if a user can post. This system is used to

- Send an email to someone who tries to post but is disallowed, and
- To tell someone using the web why he or she cannot post *before* they try to post.

The Can Post system is now self-documenting [74], and it allows for more extensible groups.

More Extensible Groups

Along with the new can post code, the definition of what *constitutes* a group has been redefined. GroupServer has always supported three different types of group:

Discussion Group: A group where only group members can post.

Announcement Group: A group where only certain group-members can post.

Support Group: A group where anyone can post, but only group-members can view the posts.

These group-types previously existed as a set of configuration options. Now there are specific marker-interfaces for each of these group-types. Currently only the can post system uses them extensively, but other systems will follow in the future.

Profile Improvements

The primary improvements to profiles is a new *Verify Email Address* notification. Like the new notifications in the group, the new Verify email message has a HTML version, which is shown by default by most email clients. The wording of the Verify email has also been changed, so it is hopefully easier to understand.

All the notifications with an HTML component are possible because of a new system for sending notifications. This system is documented as part of the `gs.profile.notify` component [75].

Site Homepage

The site homepage has been completely rewritten, but it looks largely unchanged. Now the page — provided by the new `gs.site.home` product [76] — can be skinned easily. Extra components can be easily added to it in the future.

Easier Installation

Installation should be more reliable for three reasons. The first is a change of dependencies. The second reason is a more tightly constrained set of software-sources. Finally, there is a new installation script.

Three dependencies have changed.

1. The least dramatic is to use Pillow rather than PIL. The former is a *friendly fork* of the latter, which works with the `easy_install` system that GroupServer uses. This change removes the requirement to download and install both `zlib` and `libjpeg`. The `zlib` dependency in particular was a problem with its frequent changes.
2. The *eGenex mx Extension Series* is now available as an egg, which we now use.

[74] The Can Post system now produces a *Rules List* that shows the rules that are checked whenever someone posts to the group. Example lists can be seen for the GroupSever Development group and the GroupServer Announcement Group

[75] The documentation for how to write a notification is in the product.

[76] The documentation for how to add components to the new site homepage is in the site-homepage product.

3. Finally, the `PyXML` library is also provided by an egg [77].

By default the eggs used by the GroupServer installation process now come from only two sources. The eggs that make up GroupServer itself come from <http://eggs.iopen.net/groupserver/base/>. The third-party eggs come from <http://eggs.iopen.net/groupserver/cache/>. This should prove to be more reliable than using the canonical *upstream* servers.

Finally, there is a new installer, the `gs_install_ubuntu.sh` script. For an Ubuntu system, the new script installs the dependencies, creates the databases in a secure maner, sets up a Python environment, and installs all the GroupServer components.

Minor changes

There have been three sets of minor changes to GroupServer in the Faloodeh release: Zope events are better supported, `wsgi` is supported, and there have been numerous coding improvements.

An **event** in Zope is a signal that is raised when an action is carried out [78]. You can write code that subscribes to these events, and takes additional action. (This extra code does not need to alter the original code in any way.) Events are now raised when someone joins a group, joins a site, leaves a group, and leaves a site. This should make these actions more extensible, and allow others to add extra functionality to GroupServer [79].

WSGI is the method that most Python-based web applications use to communicate to servers. GroupServer can now be served using WSGI, as the last problems with WSGI compatibility have been resolved.

Finally, There have been numerous **coding improvements.** Most have centred around the use of caching. In addition there are new base classes for pages and viewlets with GroupServer sites, profiles, and groups.

5.13.3 Get Faloodeh

To get Faloodeh go to the Downloads page for GroupServer and follow the GroupServer Installation documentation. Those who already have a functioning installation can update an existing GroupServer system.

Update an Existing GroupServer System

The update an existing GroupServer system to Faloodeh requires you to first update the packages. Then there are two tasks to be carried out in the ZMI: first update the site marker-interface, and then the complex task to update the group marker-interface

Update the Packages

To update the packages carry out the following steps.

1. Download the Faloodeh tar-ball from the GroupServer download page.
2. Uncompress the tar-ball.
3. Copy the file `groupserver-12.05/update-versions.cfg` to your existing GroupServer installation, under the name `versions.cfg`.
4. Copy the file `groupserver-12.05/update-buildout.cfg` to your existing GroupServer installation, under the name `buildout.cfg`.

[77] Two other libraries, `libxml2` and `libxslt`, are brought into the system by a small script, which is part of the buildout process. The global libraries *are* used, but they must be symbolically-linked (*symlinked*) because the `virtualenv` system does not link to them.

[78] The Zope events are provided by the ZTK documentation.

[79] The site-member product provides an example of code that both *subscribes* to an event and *raises* an event.

5. Copy the file `groupserver-12.05/zope2-2.13.13.cfg` to your existing GroupServer installation.
6. Copy the file `groupserver-12.05/ztk-versions-1.0.6.cfg` to your existing GroupServer installation.
7. In your existing GroupServer installation run:

   ```
   $ ./bin/buildout
   ```

8. Restart your GroupServer instance.

Update the Site Marker-Interface

The site homepage improvements require a modification to the sites in the ZMI before they can be seen. To update the sites, carry out the following steps.

1. Log into the ZMI for your GroupServer Installation
2. Navigate to your GroupServer instance in the ZMI (called `groupserver` by default).
3. Add a script by selecting `Script (Python)` from the *Add* menu near the top-right of the ZMI page.
   - Give the new script the Id `add_new_site_homepage`
   - Click the *Add and edit* button.
4. Change the contents of the script to the following:

```
# --=mpj17=-- The new site home page in gs.site.home works of the single
# IGSSiteFolder marker. As such the old IGSFullPageContentFolder marker
# from the "paragmatic tempalates" code is not needed. Indeed, it gets
# in the way. This code removes the IGSFullPageContentFolder marker
# interface.
from Products.XWFCore.XWFUtils import remove_marker_interfaces

site_root = context.site_root()
folders = ['Folder', 'Folder (Ordered)']
isSite = lambda d: d.getProperty('is_division', False) and hasattr(d, 'groups')
interfaces = ('Products.GSContent.interfaces.IGSFullPageContentFolder',)
ignore = []

contentFolders = site_root.Content.objectValues(folders)
sites = [ s for s in contentFolders
          if ((s.getId() not in ignore) and
              (s.getProperty('is_division', False)) and
              (hasattr(s, 'groups'))) ]

print '<html><head><title>Site update</title></head><body>'
for site in sites:
    print '<hr/>'
    print '<p>%s (<code>%s</code>)</p>' % (site.title_or_id(), site.getId())
    remove_marker_interfaces(site, interfaces)
    print '<p>Removed the content marker</p>'
print '</body></html>'
return printed
```

5. Click the *Save Changes* button.
6. Click the *Test* tab. The marker interfaces for all the sites should be updated.

Update the Group Marker-Interface

Updating the marker-interfaces in a group is similar to how you update the site marker-interface.

1. Log into the ZMI for your GroupServer Installation
2. Navigate to your GroupServer instance in the ZMI (called `groupserver` by default).
3. Add a script by selecting `Script (Python)` from the *Add* menu near the top-right of the ZMI page.
   - Give the new script the Id `remove_xwf_chat_group_marker`
   - Click the *Add and edit* button.
4. Change the contents of the script to the following:

```
from Products.XWFCore.XWFUtils import remove_marker_interfaces, add_marker_interfaces,

site_root = context.site_root()
folders = ['Folder', 'Folder (Ordered)']
ignore = []

isSite = lambda d: d.getProperty('is_division', False) and hasattr(d, 'groups')

contentFolders = site_root.Content.objectValues(folders)
sites = [ s for s in contentFolders
          if ((s.getId() not in ignore) and  isSite(s)) ]

groups = []
isGroup = lambda g: g.getProperty('is_group', False)
for site in sites:
    groupsFolder = getattr(site, 'groups')
    groups += filter(isGroup, groupsFolder.objectValues(folders))

oldInterfaces = ['Products.XWFChat.interfaces.IGSGroupFolder']
newInterfaces = ['gs.group.type.discussion.interfaces.IGSDiscussionGroup']
for group in groups:
  print 'Remove the XWFChat marker from %s (%s)' % (group.title_or_id(), group.getId())
  remove_marker_interfaces(group, oldInterfaces)
  add_marker_interfaces(group, newInterfaces)
return printed
```

5. Click the *Save Changes* button.
6. Click the *Test* tab. The marker interfaces for all the groups should be updated to *discussion* groups.
7. Change the *support* groups to the correct marker-interface by carrying out the following for each group.
   (a) Navigate to the group.
   (b) Click on the *Interfaces* tab.
   (c) Select `gs.group.type.discussion.interfaces.IGSDiscussionGroup` in the *Provided Interfaces* list.
   (d) Click the *Remove* button. The discussion-group marker interface will be removed.
   (e) Select `gs.group.type.support.interfaces.IGSSupportGroup` in the *Available Marker Interfaces* list.
   (f) Click the *Add* button. The support-group marker interface will be added.
8. Change the *announcement* groups to the correct marker-interface by carrying out the following for each group.

(a) Navigate to the group.

(b) Click on the *Interfaces* tab.

(c) Select `gs.group.type.discussion.interfaces.IGSDiscussionGroup` in the *Provided Interfaces* list.

(d) Click the *Remove* button. The discussion-group marker interface will be removed.

(e) Select `gs.group.type.announcement.interfaces.IGSAnnouncementGroup` in the *Available Marker Interfaces* list.

(f) Click the *Add* button. The announcement-group marker interface will be added.

9. Finally, remove the legacy group-support from your site:

(a) Copy the file `groupserver-12.05/versions.cfg` to your existing GroupServer installation, under the name `versions.cfg`.

(b) Copy the file `groupserver-12.05/buildout.cfg` to your existing GroupServer installation, under the name `buildout.cfg`.

(c) In your existing GroupServer installation run:

```
$ ./bin/buildout -N
```

(d) Restart your GroupServer instance.

5.14 GroupServer 12.11 — Absinthe Acquired Arbitrarily

Authors Michael JasonSmith; Richard Waid; Dan Randow

Contact Michael JasonSmith <mpj17@onlinegroups.net>

Date 2012-11-12

Organization GroupServer.org

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Contents

- GroupServer 12.11 — Absinthe Acquired Arbitrarily
  - Introduction
    - Acknowledgements
  - Changes Visible to Participants
    - New Search System
    - Better Error Pages
    - New Help System
    - In-Context Administration Guide
    - Closed Groups
    - Profile Search
    - SVG Thumbnails
  - Changes to the Underlying System
    - Configuration System
    - Improved Email Handling
    - New Authentication System
    - Relstorage
    - Performance Improvements
    - SQLAlchemy Update
    - More Flexible Group Page
  - Get Absinthe
    - Update an Existing GroupServer System
  - Resources

5.14.1 Introduction

There are fourteen major changes to GroupServer in the Absinthe release — making the system more useful, usable and extensible for both group members, administrators, and developers.

The changes visible to participants are mostly subtle improvements to existing features, rather than new features. In contrast, the changes to the underlying system are complex and extensive.

You can get Absinthe immediately.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Bill Bushey, with the support of E-Democracy.org, for the improvements to the SVG thumbnails. Thanks to Bill and Marek Kuziel for testing some early versions of Absinthe.

5.14.2 Changes Visible to Participants

The most visible change for the participants is a new search system. Some better error pages have also been created. To help participants and administrators there is a new help system, while an in-context administration guide will help administrators get their new group going more easily. Administrators now have the ability to create closed groups, and the new profile search will help administrators find the profiles of participants. Finally, SVG thumbnails are now shown.

New Search System

The new search system is the most visible change in Absinthe.

- The *Topics* tab on both the site homepage and the group page have a *Search* entry [80].
- The *Posts* tab in a group has as *Search* entry also, allowing posts to be searched [81].
- Clicking a topic keyword will search for other topics with that keyword [82].
- Searching now uses *stems*; searching for `search` will match topics that contain the words `searches`, `searching` or `searched`, for example.
- Searching is faster, as the full-text retrieval features of PostgreSQL are used [83].
- The display of topics in a site or group is much faster, as the keywords are now generated when someone posts, rather than when the topic is loaded.
- Searching using non-ASCII characters now works [84].

Better Error Pages

The *Permission Denied* page has been improved to add some suggestions about what the participant should do [85]. In addition the `mailto` that is embedded in the page now includes the URL of the problem page in the body of the email message to the Support address.

The Unexpected Error (500) page and the Not Found (404) page now work with `infrae.wsgi`, for systems that run GroupServer behind a WSGI front-end. Neither of these error-pages redirect to display the error.

New Help System

The old monolithic manuals have been replaced. The new more dynamic system will automatically show help for the features that are installed in GroupServer, including the custom features. Some of the old pages have been retained and updated.

In-Context Administration Guide

To help get groups started there is a new system to encourage the group administrator [86]. The current advice includes:

- Start a topic
- Invite people,
- Write some text in the *About* tab, and
- Make a group Private (rather than Secret).

Closed Groups

Administrators can now close groups [87]. There are two reasons for needing to do this.

1. The group may be *starting*, and the administrator does not want the members to post until everyone is in the group.

[80] The *Search* box that used to appear on every page has now been removed, as it is easier to use the *Search* entry in the *Topics* tab. This closes Bug 3434.
[81] Searching in posts closes Feature 3497.
[82] Creating topic keywords that can be clicked closes Feature 878.
[83] Using the full-text retrieval feature of PostgreSQL closes Feature 224.
[84] Being able to search for non-ASCII characters closes Bug 603.
[85] Updating the *Permission Denied* page closes Bug 646.
[86] Creating the encouragement closes Feature 3501 and Feature 177.
[87] Creating the closed-group closes Feature 449.

2. The group may be *finished*, and the administrator does not want any more posts to be made, but he or she still wants the archive available.

While there is no front-end user interface that allows the group-type to be changed [88], an administrator can change the type of the group by making a change in the ZMI.

Profile Search

A simple profile search has been added [89]. A more complex search system has not been added because the privacy issues are still being resolved.

SVG Thumbnails

GroupServer now correctly displays a thumbnail of an SVG image at the bottom of each post [90]. This item was picked from the list of low hanging fruit, where there are other (relatively) strait forward tasks listed.

5.14.3 Changes to the Underlying System

We have made significant changes to the underlying GroupServer system in the Absinthe release. The system will be easier to maintain because of a new configuration system, improved email handling, and a new authentication system. Installation is simpler because relstorage is used by default. There have also been some significant performance improvements. Developers will notice the SQLAlchemy update, and a more flexible group page.

The changes to the underlying system have been so extensive that we have decided to change the naming scheme for the GroupServer releases. The new releases belong to the **Awesome Aperitifs** series. Hence this *Absinthe Acquired Arbitrarily* release. Internally, the eggs in this series are given the version 2.0 (which you can see by looking at the `versions.cfg` file in the build directory). The version-number of the *release* will continue to use the `month.day` format. The old series was known as **Frozen Treats**; *Faloodeh Consumed with an Eye on History* was the aptly-named last release in that series. (Eggs in the Frozen Treats series were given the 1.0 version.)

Configuration System

Administration is now simpler, especially for production systems, as the configuration for important parts of GroupServer are now in a file that is external to the ZODB. The new configuration system handles the database, the improved email handling, and the new authentication system. It is based on a INI file, located in `parts/instance/gsconfig.ini`.

Improved Email Handling

The email-handling subsystem of GroupServer has been completely rewritten. Changes have been made to both the handling of outgoing mail and incoming mail.

The setup for the **outgoing** SMTP system has moved from the ZODB (accessed through the ZMI) to an INI file [91], thanks to the new configuration system. Documentation for the new outgoing SMTP system can be found in the README for the gs.email product.

[88] The issue for creating a selectable group type is Feature 702.
[89] The creation of a basic profile search closes Feature 3486.
[90] Handling SVG Thumbnails closes Bug 635.
[91] Moving the SMTP configuration to an INI file means that the two `MailHost` instances from the ZODB can be removed, which closes Bug 365.

The script that is used to add email messages to a group, the **incoming** SMTP system, has been rewritten [92]. It is now easier to use, better documented, and works. Documentation for the new script can be found by running `./bin/smtp2gs -h` or reading the README for the gs.group.messages.add.smtp2gs product.

New Authentication System

A new authentication system has been created, for the server-side scripts [93]. These scripts, such as the those involved in the improved email handling, now pass a *token* to the server when they carry out tasks. This eliminates the need to store the password of the administrator in various plain-text files.

Relstorage

By default the Relstorage product is now used to store the ZODB. This system stores the pickled objects in a relational database, rather than in the file-system. (The PostgreSQL database is used by GroupServer.) This allows greater scalability, without the need to separately install Zope Enterprise Objects (ZEO).

Performance Improvements

There have been some major performance improvements made to GroupServer in the Absinthe release. This includes the removal of some old poorly performing code [94], and altering some of the member management code [95].

SQLAlchemy Update

The entire interface between GroupServer and the PostgreSQL relational database has been rewritten [96]. This has allowed GroupServer to update its SQLAlchemy dependency from the ancient 0.3 release to the current 0.7 release.

More Flexible Group Page

The group page was refactored to make it more flexible [97]. This allows the addition of the in-context administration guide, and for other features to be added by skins.

5.14.4 Get Absinthe

To get Absinthe go to the Downloads page for GroupServer and follow the GroupServer Installation documentation. Those who already have a functioning installation can update an existing GroupServer system.

Update an Existing GroupServer System

Updating a system running the Faloodeh release of GroupServer (12.06) to Absinthe is a three-step process, which includes updating the relational database, the products, and the scripts.

Relational Database

[92] Rewriting the script that is used to add email messages to a group closes Feature 687 and Feature 3536.
[93] The creation of a new authentication system closes Bug 3416.
[94] The removal of the old `division_object` getter closes Bug 279.
[95] The optimisation of the member-handling code closes Bug 3659.
[96] An unintentional site-effect of rewriting the database interface was a fix for Bug 203.
[97] As part of the update to the group, Feature 419 was closed.

The biggest change that is needed to update GroupServer to the Absinthe release is to update the rational database, to support the new search system and some of the performance improvements. The tables that are used to store the posts, topics and topic keywords all need to be updated.

First, create a backup. While every effort has been made to crate a upgrade path that is smooth and with low risk, there is still a chance that something can go wrong. As such it is prudent to **create a backup**. First, **create a backup** of the relational database:

```
$ pg_dump -U gsadmin groupserver > gs-backup.sql
```

Where `gsadmin` is the PostgreSQL user that you set up when installing GroupServer, and `groupserver` is the name of the database.

If you use relstorage, **create a backup** of the ZODB:

```
$ pg_dump -U gszodbadmin groupserverzodb > gs-zodb-backup.sql
```

Where `gszodbadmin` is the PostgreSQL user for `relstorage` that you set up when installing GroupServer, and `groupserverzodb` is the name of the database.

Posts

> **Note** Update the `posts` table **after** you create a backup.

Begin by updating the table that stores the posts.

1. Log in to the PostgreSQL command line:

   ```
   $ psql -hlocahlost -Ugsadmin groupserver
   ```

   Where `gsadmin` is the PostgreSQL user that you set up when installing GroupServer, and `groupserver` is the name of the database.

2. Alter the `post` table to add the full-text retrieval (FTR, or full-text search, FTS) column, by executing the following SQL:

   ```
   ALTER TABLE post ADD COLUMN fts_vectors tsvector;
   ```

3. Update the rows of the `post` table to add the FTR data. This may take some time:

   ```
   UPDATE post
   SET fts_vectors = to_tsvector('english',
                                 left(coalesce(subject,'') || ' ' || coalesce(body, ''),
                                      1048575));
   ```

4. Create an index for the FTR data. This may take some time:

   ```
   CREATE INDEX post_fts_vectors ON post USING gin(fts_vectors);
   ```

5. Create an index for the posts, sorted by the last post date:

   ```
   CREATE INDEX post_last_post_date_idx ON post (date DESC);
   ```

6. Create a trigger to update the FTR data whenever a new post is made:

   ```
   CREATE TRIGGER fts_vectors_update
     BEFORE INSERT or UPDATE ON post
     FOR EACH ROW EXECUTE PROCEDURE
       tsvector_update_trigger(fts_vectors, 'pg_catalog.english', subject,
                               body);
   ```

Topics

Because people search topics as well as posts the FTR information needs to be present in both tables.

1. Add the FTR column to the `topic` table:

   ```
   ALTER TABLE topic ADD COLUMN fts_vectors tsvector;
   ```

2. Drop the old trigger:

   ```
   DROP TRIGGER count_word_count_rows ON word_count;
   ```

3. Drop the old tables that were used for searching:

   ```
   DROP TABLE topic_word_count;
   DROP TABLE word_count;
   ```

   Even with the FTR data duplicated in the `post` and `topic` table, there is a nett saving of space once these two tables are dropped.

4. Add the function that is used to create the *body* of the topic:

   ```
   CREATE OR REPLACE FUNCTION topic_body (topic_id TEXT)
     RETURNS TEXT AS $$
     DECLARE
         topic_text TEXT;
         subject TEXT;
         retval TEXT;
     BEGIN
       SELECT string_agg(post.body, ' ') INTO topic_text
         FROM post
         WHERE post.topic_id = topic_body.topic_id
           AND post.hidden IS NULL;
       SELECT COALESCE(post.subject, '') INTO subject
         FROM post WHERE post.topic_id = topic_body.topic_id LIMIT 1;
       retval := left(subject || ' ' || topic_text, 1048575);
       RETURN retval;
     END;
   $$ LANGUAGE 'plpgsql';
   ```

5. Create the function that will `topic` table with FTR data:

   ```
   CREATE OR REPLACE FUNCTION topic_ftr_populate ()
     RETURNS void AS $$
       DECLARE
         total_topics REAL;
         trecord RECORD;
         topic_vector tsvector;
         topic_text TEXT;
         i REAL DEFAULT 0;
         p REAL;
       BEGIN
         SELECT CAST(total_rows AS REAL) INTO total_topics
           FROM rowcount WHERE table_name = 'topic';
         FOR trecord IN SELECT * FROM topic WHERE fts_vectors IS NULL LOOP
           RAISE NOTICE 'Topic %', trecord.topic_id;
           topic_vector := to_tsvector('english', topic_body(trecord.topic_id));
           UPDATE topic SET fts_vectors = topic_vector
             WHERE topic.topic_id = trecord.topic_id;
           i := i + 1;
           p := (i / total_topics) * 100;
           RAISE NOTICE '  Progress % %%', p;
         END LOOP;
       END;
   $$ LANGUAGE 'plpgsql';
   ```

6. Populate the `topic` table with FTR data. This may take some time:

   ```
   SELECT topic_ftr_populate();
   ```

7. Create an index for the FTR data. This may take some time:

   ```
   CREATE INDEX topic_fts_vectors ON topic USING gin(fts_vectors);
   ```

8. Create an index for the topics, sorted by the last post date:

   ```
   CREATE INDEX topic_last_post_date_idx ON topic (last_post_date DESC);
   ```

9. Create a trigger to update the FTR data:

   ```
   CREATE OR REPLACE FUNCTION topic_fts_update ()
     RETURNS TRIGGER AS $$
       DECLARE
         topic_text TEXT;
       BEGIN
         topic_text := topic_body(NEW.topic_id);
         NEW.fts_vectors := to_tsvector('english', topic_text);
         RETURN NEW;
       END;
   $$ LANGUAGE 'plpgsql';
   CREATE TRIGGER topic_update_trigger_01
     BEFORE INSERT OR UPDATE ON topic
     FOR EACH ROW EXECUTE PROCEDURE topic_fts_update ();
   ```

Topic Keywords

Finally, the system that displays the topic keywords has been changed. The keywords are now calculated when someone posts, and are stored in the `topic_keywords` table. Previously they were calculated when the list of topics was displayed.

1. Download the file `03-keywords.sql`:

   ```
   wget --no-check-certificate https://source.iopen.net/groupserver/gs.group.messages.topic/rawfile
   ```

   This contains the SQL that is normally executed when Absinthe is installed.

2. Interpret (execute) the file in PostgreSQL:

   ```
   \i /path/to/the/download/03-keywords.sql
   ```

   Where `/path/to/the/download` is the full path to where the file `03-keywords.sql` is stored.

3. Create the function to populate the new `topic_keywords` table:

   ```
   CREATE OR REPLACE FUNCTION topic_keywords_populate ()
     RETURNS void AS $$
       DECLARE
         total_topics REAL;
         trecord RECORD;
         topic_text TEXT;
         new_keywords TEXT[];
         i REAL DEFAULT 0;
         p REAL;
       BEGIN
         SELECT CAST(total_rows AS REAL) INTO total_topics
           FROM rowcount WHERE table_name = 'topic';
   ```

```
      FOR trecord IN SELECT * FROM topic LOOP
        RAISE NOTICE 'Topic %', trecord.topic_id;
        topic_text = topic_body(trecord.topic_id);
        SELECT ARRAY(SELECT word
                     FROM topic_keywords(trecord.topic_id, topic_text))
          INTO new_keywords;
        INSERT INTO topic_keywords VALUES(trecord.topic_id, new_keywords);
        i := i + 1;
        p := (i / total_topics) * 100;
        RAISE NOTICE '  Progress % %%', p;
      END LOOP;
    END;
$$ LANGUAGE 'plpgsql';
```

4. Populate the `topic_keywords` table. This may take some time:

   ```
   SELECT topic_keywords_populate();
   ```

Products

To update an existing GroupServer installation to Absinthe carry out the following steps.

1. Download the Absinthe tar-ball from the GroupServer download page.
2. Uncompress the tar-ball:

   ```
   $ tar cfz groupserver-12.11.tar.gz
   ```

3. Change to the directory that contains your existing GroupServer installation.
4. Make a backup of your custom configuration:

   ```
   $ cp custom.cfg custom-bk.cfg
   $ cp config.cfg config-bk.cfg
   ```

5. Copy the new configuration files to your existing GroupServer installation:

   ```
   $ cp ../groupserver-12.11/*.cfg .
   ```

6. Restore your custom configuration:

   ```
   $ mv custom-bk.cfg custom.cfg
   $ mv config-bk.cfg config.cfg
   ```

7. Disable the creation of the database tables:

   ```
   $ echo 1 > var/create-tables.cfg
   ```

8. Disable the creation of a new GroupServer site:

   ```
   $ echo 1 > var/setup-gs.cfg
   ```

9. In your existing GroupServer installation run:

   ```
   $ ./bin/buildout -n
   ```

10. Restart your GroupServer instance.

Scripts

Some external scripts have changed in the Absinthe release of GroupServer, and need to be changed. In addition some ZMI scripts should also be updated.

The script `smtp2zope` used to be used to marshal an email message from Postfix into GroupServer. With the improved email handling this script should be deleted. The replacement script is called `smtp2gs`. It will be created when you update the products. The command is simpler to use than the old script; the options for the script are shown by running:

```
$ ./bin/smtp2gs --help
```

Alternatively, the README for the gs.group.messages.add.smtp2gs product documents the options.

The directory `potfix_config` in your GroupServer installation will contain an example aliases file for Postfix that uses `smtp2gs`. This can be used to replace the old calls to GroupServer from Postfix.

ZMI Scripts

Two scripts in the ZMI have to be replaced to gain some of the significant performance improvements.

1. Visit the ZMI for your site. By default it is at <http://localhost:8080/manage>.
2. Go to the folder `/example/ListManager`.
3. Select the `xwf_email_header` script.
4. Replace the contents of the script with the following:

```
groupId = list_object.listId()
siteId = list_object.siteId
site = getattr(context.Content, siteId)
group_object = getattr(site.groups, groupId)

# we copy the propertysheet, because we won't be able to access it
# in the lower layer
group_properties = {}
for p in group_object.propertyItems():
    group_properties[p[0]] = p[1]
group_properties['id'] = group_object.getId()

xmailer = getValueFor('xmailer')
mailto = getValueFor('mailto')
replyToProp = list_object.getProperty('replyto','')
if replyToProp == 'sender':
    replyto = None
else:
    replyto = getValueFor('mailto')

try:
    group_properties['division_id'] = site.aq_explicit.getId()
    group_properties['division_title'] = site.aq_explicit.title
except:
    group_properties['division_id'] = ''
    group_properties['division_title'] = ''

files = []
try:
    storage = context.FileLibrary2.get_fileStorage()
    for file_id in file_ids:
        file = storage.get_file(file_id)
        if file:
      files.append(file)
except:
    pass
```

```
return context.email_header(REQUEST, list_object=list_object,
                        group_properties=group_properties,
                        getValueFor=getValueFor, title=title, mail=mail,
                        body=body, files=files, post_id=post_id,
                        mailto=mailto, replyto=replyto,
                        xmailer=xmailer).strip()
```

5. Click the `Save Changes` button.
6. Click `ListManager` (at the top of the page) to return to the List Manager folder.
7. Select the `xwf_email_footer` script.
8. Replace the contents of the script with the following:

```
groupId = list_object.listId()
siteId = list_object.siteId
site = getattr(context.Content, siteId)
group_object = getattr(site.groups, groupId)

# we copy the propertysheet, because we won't be able to access it
# in the lower layer
group_properties = {}
for p in group_object.propertyItems():
    group_properties[p[0]] = p[1]
group_properties['id'] = group_object.getId()

try:
    group_properties['division_id'] = site.aq_explicit.getId()
    group_properties['division_title'] = site.aq_explicit.title
except:
    group_properties['division_id'] = ''
    group_properties['division_title'] = ''

# group_properties['canonical_host'] = \
#   group_object.Scripts.get.option('canonicalHost')
divConfig = site.DivisionConfiguration
group_properties['canonical_host'] = divConfig.getProperty('canonicalHost', '')

try:
    from_addr = context.parseaddr(mail.get('from',''))[1]
except:
    from_addr = ''

if from_addr:
    user = context.acl_users.get_userByEmail(from_addr)
else:
    user = None

files = []
try:
    storage = context.FileLibrary2.get_fileStorage()
    for file_id in file_ids:
        file = storage.get_file(file_id)
        if file:
            files.append(file)
except:
    pass

# Get the virtual file folder "files" from the group.
```

```
# Get the public_access_period from "files"
pap = int(getattr(group_object.files, 'public_access_period', 0))
# Turn the public_access_period to a Boolean
pap_set = bool(pap)
# Pass the Boolean to the "email_footer" template
mailto = getValueFor('mailto')

return context.email_footer(REQUEST, list_object=list_object,
                      group_properties=group_properties,
                      getValueFor=getValueFor, title=title,
                      mailto=mailto, mail=mail, body=body,
                      user_object=user, from_addr=from_addr,
                      files=files, post_id=post_id, pap_set=pap_set)
```

9. Click the `Save Changes` button.

5.14.5 Resources

- Code repository: https://source.iopen.net/groupserver/
- Questions and comments to http://groupserver.org/groups/development
- Report bugs at https://redmine.iopen.net/projects/groupserver

5.15 GroupServer 14.03 — Ouzo utilised as an unguent

Authors Michael JasonSmith; Bill Bushey; Dan Randow

Contact Michael JasonSmith <mpj17@onlinegroups.net>

Date 2014-03-20

Organization GroupServer.org

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5.15.1 Introduction

It has been seventeen months since the last release of GroupServer (Absinthe, 12.11). The major delay was caused by the creation of a new user-interface for GroupServer. Almost all the changes to GroupServer are user-visible — and include a new notifications, and updated systems for adding people. You can get Ouzo immediately.

5.15.2 Changes to GroupServer

The most significant change to GroupServer in the Ouzo release is the new style pages. In addition the system for adding people in bulk has been completely rewritten, there has been an extensive notifications update, and other updates.

New style pages

The main update to GroupServer has been the implementation of new pages on the Web interface (Issue 3423). The navigation has been extensively reworked: there is an updated layout for most pages, and pages have been integrated with Twitter Bootstrap [98]. The profile images are now (mostly) square, with new code to improve their performance. In addition the pages have been made more responsive, and the performance of the pages has been improved.

Acknowledgements The pages were redesigned by Mike Harding from Cactuslab, to whom all praise should be given.

Navigation

The navigation scheme for GroupServer has changed dramatically in this release, moving away from the context-menu (along the left), and dropping the site-menu (along the top) entirely. In their place is a system based on breadcrumbs (Issue 3510).

The *Profile* page is the only page left that makes use of the context-menu.

Updated layout

The *Group* page [99] and *Site* homepage [100] have been updated so they have asymmetric columns — with less important information placed in the smaller column on the right. Both make use of Twitter Bootstrap, the updated profile images, and the updated lists.

The *Group* page gets an updated *About* area, and *Change about* page (Issue 3871). The *Site* homepage gets a new *Welcome* area (Issue 3869) in addition to an updated *Introduction* (Issue 3870).

The layout of the *Topic* page and *Post* page have been updated to move the metadata (such as who posted the message, and when) to the left of the post (Issue 3455).

The *Image* page, which displays an image that has been posted to a group, has been updated to reflect the layout of the *Topic* page. Problems with SVG images have also been resolved (Issue 3663).

Most of the other pages have been updated to take Twitter Bootstrap and the new navigation into account.

Twitter Bootstrap

The GroupServer user-interface is now based on Twitter Bootstrap 2.3. The look of every single page has changed significantly as a consequence.

The tabs, on the Group page and Site page, have dropped the use of jQuery.UI tabs in favour of the Bootstrap Tabs. The Popover class is used to show information including the privacy of a group and posts, encouragement for the new administrator, and the Share widget.

Profile images

Another major change has been with the profile images. They are now shown in more places and at multiple resolutions. In addition most of the images are square. If a group member has not set an image a *missing profile image* image is shown.

[98] The product for supplying the CSS is located at <https://source.iopen.net/groupserver/gs.content.js.bootstrap>
[99] The code responsible for laying out the *Group* page is provided by <https://source.iopen.net/groupserver/gs.group.home>
[100] The code responsible for laying out the *Site* homepage is provided by <https://source.iopen.net/groupserver/gs.site.home>

Multiple resolutions The profile-images in releases of GroupServer prior to Ouzo were restricted to 81×108 pixels. Now the content provider [101] is able to supply profile images at a range of resolutions (Issue 588). In addition the image compression enhancements have also been rolled out to the profile image, so small images are now directly embedded into the page.

Square The profile images are now square by default [102]. These square images are shown in more places, such as in the new *Recently active* list on the *Group* page (Issue 3873), the *Profile* link at the top of every page, and the *Post message* area of the *Topic* and *Start topic* pages.

Updated lists

At its core GroupServer provides lists of things: groups, topics, posts, files, and people. All these lists have been updated to improve the hierarchy of information.

- The *Groups* list on the *Site* page now lists all the visible groups, making the *Groups* page redundant (Issue 3449).
- The *Files* icons for a topic are no-longer shown by default. Instead a single attachment-icon is shown, and icons for the files are displayed in a tooltip.
- Who made the most recent post, and when, is more prominently displayed.
- The topic-keywords are labelled `Keywords`.
- There is a new list of *Recently active* members on the *Group page*, which is loaded through AJAX (Issue 3873).
- The list of *Files* has been moved to the secondary column of the *Group* page, from the main area.

Responsive

The GroupServer web pages are now more responsive to the size of device (Issue 3909). This allows the pages to look good from screens found on desktops, down to small feature phones. This allows people to keep up with conversations anywhere and any time. Some pages, such as the Image page (Issue 3508) have had particular attention to ensure the page works well at multiple sizes.

Performance

The performance Web interface has been massively improved. The primary way of doing this has been with refactored JavaScript. In addition image compression has been increased and font icons introduced. Finally, many small changes have been made to the layout of the pages to reduce the *time to glass*.

Refactored JavaScript All the JavaScript used by GroupServer has been refactored into separate modules (Issue 344). This makes documentation and maintenance far easier, at the expense of speed. To compensate, all JavaScript (including that supplied by jQuery [103] and Twitter Bootstrap [104]) is deferred until after the paged has been shown [105]. In addition, all the JavaScript has been *minified* to reduce the amount of data that is transported, and to speed the parsing by the Web browser. Finally, almost all the JavaScript is *asynchronously* loaded [106].

[101] The product for supplying the profile-image content provider is located at <https://source.iopen.net/groupserver/gs.profile.image.base>
[102] The product for supplying the square profile-image is located at <https://source.iopen.net/groupserver/gs.profile.image.square>
[103] The product for supplying the jQuery JavaScript is located at <https://source.iopen.net/groupserver/gs.content.js.jquery.base>
[104] The product for supplying the Twitter Bootstrap code is located at <https://source.iopen.net/groupserver/gs.content.js.bootstrap>
[105] The product for determining what JavaScript is loaded, and how, is provided by <https://source.iopen.net/groupserver/gs.content.layout>
[106] The code for asynchronously loading the JavaScript is provided by <https://source.iopen.net/groupserver/gs.content.js.loader/>

The JavaScript code loads and assists with navigating the lists of recent topics, posts and files. This code has been refactored so the all the lists share the same code (Issue 3507). In addition the lists are only loaded when the corresponding tab is visible. Combined this greatly reduces the number of requests required to load the page.

Strict mode has been enabled for all the core JavaScript modules, and some of the other modules. This has the combined effect of reducing the number of errors, and improving performance by allowing the browser to optimise the code.

Image compression Many JPEG images that are posted by group members have very low compression (or very high quality, depending how you like to look at it). GroupServer now produces thumbnails with aggressive compression by default (Issue 663). As the dimensions of the image are reduced the quality of the image is also dropped — making the images far smaller [107]. When images are *particularly* small a data-URI is used to directly embed the image into the page, reducing the need to make an HTTP request to fetch the image.

Font icons The new user-interface uses a font to provide the different icons in the interface (Issue 3788). These are quick to load and render. In addition they are independent of the resolution of the device, so work well in the new responsive user interface.

Adding people

The system for adding people to a group has undergone many improvements, primarily to the pages that allow the new member details to be uploaded by CSV, but also to the system that allows existing site members to be invited to join a group.

The systems for inviting people in bulk [108] — and adding people in bulk [109] — using a CSV file have been completely rewritten (Issue 3494). Both systems now use AJAX and JSON to parse the CSV file, and invite [110] or add [111] individual people. This, combined with widgets provided by Twitter Bootstrap, allows for continual progress updates, avoids server timeouts, and is **massively** more usable.

On a more minor note, the page for inviting site members to join a group has been enhanced with the addition of email-addresses, which helps distinguish between people with similar names (Issue 452).

Notifications update

Most of the notifications in GroupServer have been updated in Ouzo (Issue 3892). Premailer is now used to embed CSS into the HTML-formatted messages. The CSS itself is specified using a system of "skins" that is very similar to what is used for the Web pages [112], and the default look is very similar to the Web user interface [113].

Almost all the notifications have been moved to the file-system — rather than requiring templates in the ZMI (Issue 269) — and the use of the new notifications is now far more consistent than before.

Topic digests

The system for producing the topic digests [114] has been completely rewritten (Issue 408). The digest email is provided in both HTML and plain-text formats. In addition the code for sending the digests [115] has been rewritten, so it uses

[107] The code for determining how images should be displayed is provided by <https://source.iopen.net/groupserver/gs.image>
[108] The code for inviting people by uploading a CSV file is provided by <https://source.iopen.net/groupserver/gs.group.member.invite.csv>
[109] The code for adding people by uploading a CSV file is provided by <https://source.iopen.net/groupserver/gs.group.member.add.csv>
[110] The code for inviting someone by JSON is provided by <https://source.iopen.net/groupserver/gs.group.member.invite.json>
[111] The code for adding someone by JSON is provided by <https://source.iopen.net/groupserver/gs.group.member.add.json>
[112] The code for specifying the CSS for the HTML-formatted notifications is provided by <https://source.iopen.net/groupserver/gs.content.email.css>
[113] The code for specifying the layout of the messages is provided by <https://source.iopen.net/groupserver/gs.content.email.layout>
[114] The system for generating the topic digests is provided by <https://source.iopen.net/groupserver/gs.group.messages.topicsdigest>
[115] The system for sending the topic digests is provided by <https://source.iopen.net/groupserver/gs.group.messages.senddigest>

less memory, and is more secure (Issue 3415 and Issue 3417).

Other updates

As well as the major rewrite of the user-interface a number of smaller changes have been made with the Ouzo release that makes GroupServer more useful, more usable, and easier to maintain.

Autocomplete with *Start a topic*: The *Start a topic* page [116] now has type-ahead (provided by Twitter Bootstrap) that suggests the names of existing topics in the group (Issue 282).

Show password: All password entries (for login and setting a password) now have a toggle to allow a group member to hide his or her password in public places (Issue 519) [117].

Attachment detection: The code for determining the attachments to show, and the attachments to hide, has been rewritten to allow more attachments through (Issue 4073).

***Join and leave log*:** The *Join and leave log* has been moved to the *Members* page (Issue 3683).

***WMYeditor* updated:** The *WYMeditor* is used to provide editing of HTML content such as the *About* area in a group. It has been updated to work with jQuery 1.9 (Issue 3868).

Keywords on the *Topic* page: Keywords, summarising what has been discussed, are now shown at the top of the *Topic* page (Issue 877)

Privacy on the *Group* page: The privacy setting for a group is shown on the *Group* page, near the email address for the group (Issue 3914).

Accessibility: WAI-ARIA attributes have been added throughout GroupServer to improve the accessibility.

Python 3 updates: The slow journey to convert GroupServer from Python 2 to Python 3 has been started. At this stage three sets of changes have been made, or are being made:

- Ensuring the code is consistent with PEP-8,
- Switching to Unicode literals where possible (PEP-3112), and
- Switching to absolute import (PEP-328).

5.15.3 Get Ouzo

To get Ouzo go to the Downloads page for GroupServer and follow the GroupServer Installation documentation. Those who already have a functioning installation can update an existing GroupServer system.

Update an Existing GroupServer System

To update a system running the Absinthe release of GroupServer (12.11) to Ouzo (14.03) carry out the following steps.

1. Download the Ouzo tar-ball from the GroupServer download page.
2. Uncompress the tar-ball:

   ```
   $ tar cfz groupserver-14.03.tar.gz
   ```

3. Change to the directory that contains your existing GroupServer installation.
4. Make a backup of your custom configuration:

[116] The *Start a topic* page is provided by <https://source.iopen.net/groupserver/gs.group.messages.starttopic>
[117] The toggle to show or hide a password is provided by <https://source.iopen.net/groupserver/gs.profile.password>

```
$ cp custom.cfg custom-bk.cfg
$ cp config.cfg config-bk.cfg
```

5. Copy the new configuration files to your existing GroupServer installation:

```
$ cp ../groupserver-14.03/*.cfg .
```

6. Restore your custom configuration:

```
$ mv custom-bk.cfg custom.cfg
$ mv config-bk.cfg config.cfg
```

7. In your existing GroupServer installation run:

```
$ ./bin/buildout -n
```

8. Restart your GroupServer instance.

5.15.4 Resources

- Code repository: https://source.iopen.net/groupserver/
- Questions and comments to http://groupserver.org/groups/development
- Report bugs at https://redmine.iopen.net/projects/groupserver

5.16 GroupServer 14.06 — Slivovica shots at sunset

Authors Michael JasonSmith;

Contact Michael JasonSmith <mpj17@onlinegroups.net>

Date 2014-06-03

Organization GroupServer.org

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5.16.1 Introduction

The major changes to GroupServer in the Slivovica release include making the system easier to install, better at handling email, and improving the reliability. You can get Slivovica immediately.

5.16.2 Changes to GroupServer

For new installations of GroupServer the most important change is the updated buildout recipes, that should make the process of installing GroupServer more robust. For existing systems DMARC support has been added, as well as improvements to how incoming SMTP is handled. Finally there have been many other minor code improvements.

Updated buildout recipes

GroupServer itself is installed using four *recipes* that are used by Buildout. All four recipes have been improved. There is now a base recipe *class* that is shared by the recipes, and unit-tests have been added to ensure the recipes work as expected. Specific improvements include the following.

- The recipe that creates the Postfix configuration has been updated, fixing a problem that Bill found.
- The recipe that crates the PostgreSQL tables now uses the setuptools package to extract the SQL files from the different modules. The modules are now passed into the recipe from Buildout, rather than being written in the recipe.
- The creation of the GroupServer site is now simpler, as only the site-administrator is created during installation. This solves many issues with the email-address of the normal group-member conflicting with the email address of the site administrator.

DMARC Support

With the Slivovica release of GroupServer messages are more likely to be received by people whose email is provided by hosts that implement strict DMARC. With strict DMARC messages are checked to ensure that message was actually sent from the host listed in the `From` address. All mailing-lists (including GNU Mailman, Google Groups, and Yahoo! Groups) modify the message before sending it out, and this would cause the DMARC check to fail.

Like most other mailing lists, GroupServer now rewrites the `From` address if the group member uses an email provider that implements strict DMARC. The new address includes the name of the sender, and the ID of his or her profile (see Feature 4108). This ensures that the person who sent the message can still be identified, and email message will still get through.

Incoming SMTP

With the Slivovica release of GroupServer email messages are correctly sent to GroupServer when it is running on a non-standard port. Messages are received by Postfix, which then uses the `smtp2gs` programme to add the message to GroupServer. Previously manual intervention was needed if GroupServer was listening to a non-standard port.

Now all components of GroupServer correctly handle the port that is set in the configuration file when GroupServer is first set-up. This includes the *recipe* that creates the alias file for Postfix, the `smtp2gs` script that uploads the email message, and the `gs.form` library that `smtp2gs` uses to connect to GroupServer.

Minor code improvements

Four components have undergone minor updates for Slivovica.

Add member: Fixed an error with the dependencies of the product that added a member to a group.

Site style: Some errors in the CSS have been fixed.

`mbox` importing: The code that imports `mbox` files has been updated, and it now uses the same core code as the `smtp2gs` script.

Starting public groups: Public groups are now visible on the homepage of the site as soon as they are started, closing Bug 4105.

In addition the following general changes have been made to GroupServer.

- Three fundamental *products* — gs.core, gs.dmarc, and gs.form — have been **published** to PyPI.
- Sphinx is now used to generate the **documentation** for `gs.config`, `gs.core`, `gs.database`, `gs.dmarc`, `gs.form`, and `gs.group.messages.add.smtp2gs`.

- **Unit tests** have been added to many of the products that make up GroupServer. These tests make it more likely that these components that make up GroupServer will work correctly now and in the future.
- Where possible **Python 3 support** has been added to the products that make up GroupServer. The main change has been to switch to Unicode-text by default. While not all products have been updated, many have.
- **Strict mode** has been turned on in more of the JavaScript modules that support the GroupServer interface. Code written with strict-mode turned on is more likely to be correct, and is executed more quickly in modern browsers.
- Finally, more code now raises errors, rather than relying on `assert` statements. As these errors should never happen hopefully no-one will notice a difference.

5.16.3 Get Slivovica

To get Slivovica go to the Downloads page for GroupServer and follow the GroupServer Installation documentation. Those who already have a functioning installation can update an existing GroupServer system.

Update an Existing GroupServer System

To update a system running the Ouzo release of GroupServer (14.03) to Slivovica (14.06) carry out the following steps.

1. Download the Slivovica tar-ball from the GroupServer download page.
2. Uncompress the tar-ball:

   ```
   $ tar cfz groupserver-14.06.tar.gz
   ```

3. Change to the directory that contains your existing GroupServer installation.
4. Copy the new version-configuration files to your existing GroupServer installation:

   ```
   $ cp ../groupserver-14.06/[vz]*cfg  .
   ```

5. In your existing GroupServer installation run:

   ```
   $ ./bin/buildout -n
   ```

6. Restart your GroupServer instance.

5.16.4 Resources

- Code repository: https://source.iopen.net/groupserver/
- Questions and comments to http://groupserver.org/groups/development
- Report bugs at https://redmine.iopen.net/projects/groupserver

CHAPTER 6

Indices and tables

- *search*